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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	529	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~
Dated	2-3-	Ce 74 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Op 1228 16230
Govt. of (1874) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Chief Engineer for
Irrigation

Date

Recd.

Encl

2 March No. 529.

No. 16 @ 18

Lt. Christie, R.E., by Cont.

Mr. Ault. Papering orders
in letters from the Cont. of
Mr. Ault. on the subject of
the deputation of Lt.
Christie to Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd March 1874.

Read the following letters:—

No. 16. 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, 14th November 1873, No. 5,276.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Government, that Lieutenant Christie, R.E., Deputy Controller, left Madras yesterday for Calcutta, to meet and consult the Accountant General, Public Works Department, regarding the preparation of Capital and Revenue Accounts of Irrigation Works.

P. S.—I have just received G. O. of the 12th instant to which I reply in a separate letter.

No. 17. From the same Officer, dated Fort St. George, 14th November 1873, No. 5,288.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of G. O. of the 12th instant, and to express my regret that it did not reach me a day earlier, for I should then have been able to postpone the departure of Lieutenant Christie, who left for Calcutta yesterday. I trust however to be able to satisfy His Excellency in Council that I had good reason to believe that the arrangement made was in accordance with the intentions of the Madras Government.

2. On the 14th March 1873, in No. 168, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation wrote to my predecessor as follows:—

"The undersigned has the honour to inform the Controller, Public Works Accounts, that so soon as Lieutenant Christie, has obtained full information as to the materials upon which he will have to work, and therefore as to what is really practicable as regards details in making out the financial returns of Irrigation Works, it is intended that he shall proceed to Calcutta to confer with the Accountant General, Public Works Department, as to the results to be sought for in the inquiry, as well as to ascertain the progress made in the North-West Provinces and Punjab in arrangements having a similar object in view.

"The Controller is therefore requested in due course to report when it is considered that the time has arrived for Lieutenant Christie to visit Calcutta for the purposes indicated."

* No. 2,402.

On the 25th July 1873,* I wrote to the Chief Engineer as follows:—

"With reference to your memorandum No. 168, of the 14th March 1873, Lieutenant Christie will be ready to consult you by the 15th proximo preparatory to proceeding to Simla to confer with the Accountant General, Public Works Department. If you are likely to be at Ootacamund during the ensuing month Lieutenant Christie will join you there."

In reply to the above, Colonel Mullins informed me on the 7th August* that as he had arranged to leave Ootacamund on inspection duty, he would not be able to see Lieutenant Christie till 10th or 12th of September and then in Madras

* No. 486.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd March 1874.*

As the Accountant General, Public Works Department, had by telegraph * inquired

* Of 29th July 1873.

when Lieutenant Christie would reach Simla, I reported,† to him the result of the above correspondence with Colonel Mullins, adding that—

“I consider it absolutely necessary that he (Lieutenant Christie) should first consult the Chief Engineer in order that there may be complete agreement between the instructions of the Local Government and the arrangements that may be considered desirable and practicable by Lieutenant Christie.”

3. From the underlined portion of the above quoted passage it will be apparent that, judging from the Chief Engineer's letter quoted in my 2nd paragraph, and regarding him, in his position of Joint Secretary, as the mouth-piece, so to speak, of the Madras Government, I acted in good faith, and considered that I was simply giving effect to the intentions of the Madras Government. I can only express my deep regret that circumstances, as explained, led me to a wrong conclusion.

4. I have little more to add. The whole subject was discussed between Colonel Mullins and Lieutenant Christie in September last, and then, after consulting the first mentioned officer, I wrote *

* No. 3,807 of 18th September 1873.

the following to the Accountant General, Public Works Department:—

“I have this day conversed with the Chief Engineer of Irrigation, who has discussed with Lieutenant Christie all matters connected with financial returns, and that we are all of opinion that the discussion with you on the subject may now take place at any time you may fix.”

To this the Accountant General replied* by fixing the first week of December next for the meeting in Calcutta. The matter stood thus till the 18th October,

* No. 278 L, of 26th September 1873.

when Lieutenant Christie heard that he was required to join the Camp of Exercise in January next. As he was naturally anxious to have time to prepare for Military duty after his return from Calcutta, I telegraphed to the Accountant General to know whether the meeting could not take place earlier than the first week of December. In his reply the Accountant General fixed on the 25th November, and so Lieutenant Christie has gone, taking advantage of the first P. and O. Steamer in order that before the meeting with the Accountant General he may have time to look into the working of the Controller's Office in Bengal in respect to Capital and Revenue Accounts, etc.

No. 18.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1874, No. 529.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 1.

It would appear from the Controller's letter that in dealing with the question of Lieutenant Christie's deputation to

Calcutta, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation lost sight of the fact that the Government of Madras objected, under date the 29th September 1871, to the subordination of their officers of the Control Department to the Accountant General instead of to the Local Government. The step therefore taken by him without reference to Government of authorizing Lieutenant Christie's departure to Calcutta on the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd March 1874.*

requisition of the Accountant General has tended to place the Government in a false position; a mistake which must in future be avoided.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Controller will therefore invariably submit for the orders of Government any future requisitions of the kind made by the Accountant General of the Public Works Department, and report will now be made whether the object of Lieutenant Christie's late deputation to Calcutta has been attained during the limited time that he has been enabled to spend there. The subject of his privilege leave will also be brought forward again separately.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

„ Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Office of the Controller of
Public Works Accounts,
Fort St. George, 12 November 1893.

A 5276

From

The Offg. Controller of
Public Works Accounts.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for
the information of Government that
Lieutenant Christie M.C., Deputy Controller,
left Madras yesterday for Calcutta to
meet and consult the Accountant General
Public Works Department regarding
the preparation of Capital and Revenue
Accounts of Irrigating works.

I have just received
S.O. of the 12 inst.
in which is a
separate letter from

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant.

Offg. Controller of Public Works Accounts.

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The Officiating Controller of
Public Works Accounts.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G. O. of the 12th Instant and to express my regret that it did not reach me a day earlier, for I should then have been able to postpone the departure of Lieutenant Christie who left for Calcutta yesterday. I trust

Ex 8 Dec 1/76
12 c. 5 n. 73

No 529-2 made 1/11

*Depositing the de-
fructus of Saint
Christo R.R. to
Kalamita.*

Ac 5276
 Made 11.3
 Dec 15 1893

Go the way to look
for it.

P. 3. 1843. *Helix*
gibbosa sp. n.
 6228.
 One of the best of
 the series.

28.
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however, to be able to satisfy His Excellency
in Council that I had good reason to
believe that the arrangement made was
in accordance with the intentions of
the Madras Government.

2. *Annex.* On the 14th March 1873,
in No. 168, the Chief Engineer for
Irrigation wrote to my predecessor as
follows:

"The undersigned has the honor
to inform the Controller Public Works
Accounts that so soon as Lieutenant Christie
has obtained full information as to the
materials upon which he will have to
work, and therefore as to what is really
practicable, as regards details in making
out the Financial Returns of Irrigation
works, it is intended that he shall proceed
to Calcutta to confer with the Accountant
General, Public Works Department, as to
the results to be sought for in the enquiry,

1873
March 14

* No. 2402

as well as to ascertain the progress
made in the North West Provinces
and in Punjab in arrangements having
a similar object in view. The Controller is therefore
requested in due course to report when it
is considered that the time has arrived
for Lieutenant Christie to visit Calcutta
for the purposes indicated."

On the 25th July 1873, I wrote to the
Chief Engineer as follows:

"With reference to your Memorandum
No. 168 of the 14th March 1873, Lieutenant
Christie will be ready to consult you by
the 15th inst. in preparation for proceeding
to Simla to confer with the Accountant
General, Public Works Department. If you
are likely to be at Coitacammund during
the ensuing month Lieutenant Christie
will join you there."

In reply to the above, Colonel Phillips
informed me on the 7th August that as
he

No. 186

he had arranged to leave Cochin on inspection duty, he would not be able to see Lieutenant Christie till 10th or 12th of September and then in Madras. As the Accountant General, Public Works Department, had by telegraph enquired of 29th July when Lieutenant Christie would reach Simla, I reported to him the result of the above correspondence with Colonel Mullins, adding that

"It is absolutely necessary that he (Lieutenant Christie) should first consult the Chief Engineer in order that there may be complete agreement between the instructions of the Local Government and the arrangements that may be considered desirable and practically Lieutenant Christie."

From the underlined portion of the above quoted passage, it will be

13 5
apparent that judging from the Chief Engineer's letter quoted in my 2nd para, and regarding him, in his position of Joint Secretary, as the mouth-piece so to speak - of the Madras Government, I acted in good faith and considered that I was simply giving effect to the intentions of the Madras Government. I can only express my deep regret that circumstances, as explained, led me to a wrong conclusion. I have little more to add. The whole subject was discussed between Colonel Mullins and Lieutenant Christie in September last and then, after consulting the first mentioned officer, I wrote the following to the Accountant General, Public Works Department. I have this day conversed with the

No 3507 of 18th Sept 1873
I wrote the following to the Accountant General, Public Works Department.
"I have this day conversed with the

the Chief Engineer of Irrigation who
has discussed with Lieutenant Christie
all matters connected with financial
returns and that we are all of opinion
that the discussion with you on the
subject may now take place at any
time you may fix.

This the Accountant General replied by
fixing the first week of December
for the meeting in Calcutta. The matter
stood thus till the 18th October when
Lieutenant Christie heard that he was
required to join the camp for exercise
in January next. As he was naturally
anxious to have time to prepare for
military duty after his return from
Calcutta, he telegraphed to the Accountant
General to know whether the meeting
could not take place earlier than the
first week of December. In his
reply the Accountant General fixed

15 6 7
on the 25th November and so Lieutenant
Christie has gone, taking advantage
of the first P. & O. Steamer in order that
before the meeting with the Accountant
General, he may have time to look
into the working of the Controller's
office in Bengal, in respect to Capital
and Revenue Accounts, &c.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant.

James
Controller of P. & W. Accounts.

P. M. 1873 Department
Pro: of Govt. of Madras
No 5230.

The Off. Controller of

P.W. Accounts

The Secretary to Government,

P.W. Department,

Fort St. George

No 5288

Dated 14th November 1873

Offering explanation
regarding the departure of
Lieut. Christie R.E. to Calcutta
to consult with the Account
General, P.W. Department in
respect to Capital & Revenue
Accounts.

No 19

No 529. 2nd envelope

Public Works Department
529 17

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

From The Off. Controller of P.W.A. / P.W. E. No 5276 of 14th Nov/73/

From _____ No 5288 of 14th Nov/73/

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the Controller of P.W.A. dated 14th Nov/73.

It would appear from the Controller's letter that in dealing with the question of Lieut. Christie's deputation to Calcutta, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation lost sight of the fact that the Govt. of Madras protected under date the 29th Sept/71, against the subordination of their Local Officers of the Central Dept. to the Accountant General.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the Controller of P.W.A. dated 14th Nov/73.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the Controller of P.W.A. dated 14th Nov/73.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the Controller of P.W.A. dated 14th Nov/73.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the Controller of P.W.A. dated 14th Nov/73.

And report will now
 be made whether
 the object of Lieut.
 Christie's late deputa-
 tion to Calcutta has
 been attained during
 the limited time that
 he has been enabled
 to spend there. The
 object of his privilege
 leave will also be
 brought forward
 again separately.
Ans.

To The Chief Secy for Ld.
 " Controller
 Despatch L.C. 4/3/74

16. 10.

10. 3. 1874

J. W. Dept

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
 Read the following.

From the Offy Controller
 of the Accounts. (Here enter as 4024 of 21 Oct/73)
 From ————— D^o Here enter * 4853 of 30^o do-

With reference to
 that portion of the letter
 from the Deputy Controller
 for Irrigation accompanying
 the letter from the Offy
 Controller dated 30^o October
 1873 in which he intimates
 that he has been directed
 to report himself to the
 Accountant General Public
 Works Dept. by the 25th
 instant. His Excellency
 the

the Governor in Council
observes that no applica-
-tion has as yet been
made to the Government
on the subject; and as
in a letter to the Govt. of
India of 28 March 1873
No 967, it was intimated
that it was not considered
advisable for the Deputy
Controller to proceed to
Calcutta until he had
at first acquainted him-
-self here with the ma-
-terials upon which
he will have to work,
and no reply to that
communication having
been received, His Ex-
-cellency the Governor in
Council

28
Council cannot permit
Lieutenant Christie
to leave the Presidency
until this Government
receives information
of the circumstances
under which he is
required at Calcutta.

Report of Mr. Christie's
departure to Calcutta -
circulated for orders -

The Chief Engineer
for Immigration would
appear to have over-
looked the circum-
stances recapitu-
lated in the Secre-
tary's Memo of
the 5th Nov -

I wrote these papers
circulated first to my Work Colleagues
The difficulty arose before I printed the
Govt. I think that I should take no action
now pending replies to the protests made
(to Gov. of S. & W. India) - and I will accordingly to Mr. Moss on 2/12.
Col. Mullens also asked to explain his action
4/12 MB

G.W.

29.11.73

None appears to be a good deal
of misunderstanding in this case.

are all at issue with the
 f. 7. as to the ^{quality of} control over the
 subordinate officers in the Account
 Dep^t. of Public Works; and our
 remonstrances against the assumption
 that f. 7. of direct control over
 them, made some time ago, have
 never been answered.

In hint, charities can they
appear to have advanced at first.

direct contact, & ordered him to
Calcutta without consulting the Govt.
and by some mis take he has gone the
wrong way.

sundry.
 But, on the other hand, in the telegram
 from Calcutta ~~was~~ (sent) which
 is with these papers, the extract of
 this sort - appears he admitted.
 (perhaps the

Under these circumstances, perhaps the best thing we can do is to leave the matter alone, at least for the present. As an

17/ Contd.

matter of fact, it is well that Lieut. Christie
is sent to Calcutta, for it was the ^{best} way
of settling a question of great difficulty
and importance.

And for the rest, in my I think absence
for the present that the J. I. requiring
our right to collect the movements
of these officers.

Ch 6228 & 6230
Dec/73

Dec 1973

The accompanying
letter from the Officiating
Controller of P.W. Accounts
is forwarded for orders
in continuation of the
papers now in cir-
culation regarding Lieut.
Christie's deputation to
Calcutta.

W. Walker Col. R. S.

Secy to Govt. P.W. D.

For. Secy
Dec 1873

[Handwritten signature]

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