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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2200 - (IV) Press
B.P. No. — Mis. —

Dated 29-7- 1875.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29*th July* 1875.

No. 801. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Officiating Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 20th July 1875, No. 1,518:—

I HAVE the honor to request you will be so good as to ascertain from the Government if the President or Vice-President of Local Fund Boards are at liberty to obtain any information they choose to ask for from the Range Officers of the district without my knowledge or consent on matters which I had myself submitted to their Boards for disposal.

2. The circumstance which has given rise to this letter are briefly these: As long ago as 1869-70, it was proposed to construct a road from Pulney to Dharapooram, and work appears to have been begun in 1870-71 on some kind of an estimate prepared for a line which was not adopted. Captain Pennycuick, at one time the Range Officer, found it necessary to incur the expense of constructing several more masonry works on the new line, but nothing was done to revise the estimate, and work was allowed to proceed until the grant was exhausted in 1873-74. Mr. Hawksworth sent me his revised estimate and comparative statement in November 1874, and, on the 4th of that month, I sent it on to the Local Fund Board, merely remarking there had been great delay in the matter, but that Mr. Hawksworth had had a very large range to look after; the excess was about 12 per cent. over the original estimate of Rupees 14,300, which had been departed from, the line changed, no proper surveys or levels taken, the work called for to be vigorously proceeded with, the Range Officers changed three or four times, and the Overseers nearly as often; as it had taken nearly four years to construct some nine miles of road in an open undulating country, I considered the best thing to do was to complete the work as soon as possible and give the district the benefit of a good road, as only one mile remained to be finished.

3. I heard no more of this matter till the 20th May last, when the Vice-President submitted a long minute on the subject to the joint Boards, entering into all kinds of details, regarding which I had no information, and could only obtain some from the only Overseer remaining in the district, which I at once offered to do, and have since sent in, but it was only the other day I ascertained that Mr. Bliss had obtained and used against the members of this department, information from Mr. Hawksworth without my knowledge and consent, and as I do not think the Government are likely to approve of such proceedings, I beg you will be good enough to obtain their orders and instructions in the matter as soon as possible, as I need hardly point out it is quite impossible to work a department under the Government if the local head is to be set aside in this manner, and the more so when it was well known to the Vice-President what difficulties and trouble I had to get Mr. Hawksworth to attend to any work or duties at all, and it is quite clear from Overseer Mr. Fonseca's explanations that Mr. Hawksworth gave himself no trouble to ascertain the real facts and circumstances of an estimate which he had taken charge of and had a long time in hand.

4. The position of this department in regard to the Local Fund Board should, I consider, be defined particularly as regards the Dindigul Circle, as this Board at the dictation of the Vice-President pass resolutions directing the smallest possible

minutiœ on the estimates, altering or defacing plans, and creating far more loss of time and money than amateur engineering or estimating is likely ever to recover.

5. The slightest deviation from an estimate is declared to be "unprincipled," never mind by whom it is made, or for what purpose or object; at the same time the Vice-President admits he makes what changes he likes in the estimates he himself carries out, taking care not to exceed the grants, but I would respectfully submit that, if the thing is "unprincipled" in the one case, it cannot be considered right in the other, simply because it is not likely to be found out and is carried out by a non-professional officer over whom there is no check or control. I have avoided troubling the Government in such matters, as the objections raised were in general most trifling, and it was far better not to lose time in discussing them; but if the officers of this department are to be set aside and over-ridden in this manner long after they have left the district, it is impossible to expect much interest can be taken by them in Local Fund works. In the work now complained of during the four years or more, it has been under construction in the Vice-President's own taluqs, he himself having repeatedly seen it; no objections were raised till the 20th May last, seven months after the revised estimate, for it had been sent in, and all this time no work was doing, and then only after every officer connected with it had left the district or gone home, and without one word of explanation ever having been called for from any one of them, except Mr. Hawks-worth. If any interest for the *public service* was really felt, surely it was advisable to move in the matter somewhat earlier, and to ascertain, after the line had been changed, if the grant was likely to suffice and effect the object for which it had been given.

No. 802. ORDER THEREON, 29th July 1875, No. 2,200.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 80.

IN the above letter the District Engineer, Madura, brings to notice that the Vice-President, Local Fund Boards, has called upon a Range Officer for information regarding an estimate submitted to the Board by the District Engineer, without his knowledge, and also that the Vice-President admits he makes what changes he likes in the estimates he carries out, taking care not to exceed the grants; and pointing out the difficulties he experiences in carrying on works under these circumstances, he asks for the Orders of Government on the subject.

2. It is observed that in Rule XLII., Local Fund Rules, it is stated that the President may either arrange for the execution of a work in anticipation of sanction or may apply to the Range Officer (informing the Superintending Engineer that he has done so), and it should be inferred from this that, when the President, to save time, applies for any information regarding an estimate to the Range Officer, he should also inform the Superintending Engineer (or District Engineer) of his proceedings.

3. As regards the deviations from estimates made in carrying out works, it is observed that they should always be sanctioned by competent authority; and in the case of works for which completion certificates have to be granted by Public Works Officers, considerable difficulties will arise when unauthorized deviations have been made.

4. The matter will be referred to the Revenue Department, with a view to the Vice-President being called on for explanation, and to orders being issued to ensure the Local Fund Rules being adhered to in future.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
" District Engineer, Madura.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Spare Copies

District Engineer's Office 1

No 1518 Madras 20th July 1875

58

From

Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Fischer RE.
District Engineer of Madras

To

Colonel H. H. Walker RE
Secretary to Government NWP
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to request
you will be good as to ascertain from
the Government if the Presidents of Local Boards and
at liberty to obtain any information they
please to ask for from the Army officers
of the District without any knowledge or
consent on matters which I had myself
submitted to their board for disposal.

2 The Government which has
given me to this letter are highly obliged
the long ago as 1869-70 it was proposed
to construct a Road from Pulney to Dhara-
-puram
and

and work appears to have been begun in 1874-75 on some kind of new Estimate prepared for a line which was not adopted. Captain Cunningham, who had since the Range Officer, found it necessary to incur the expense of constructing several more masonry works on the new line but nothing was done to revise the Estimate which was allowed to proceed until the year was exhausted in 1875-76 Mr Hawksworth submitted his revised Estimate and corresponding Statement in November 1875 and on the 4th of that month Board sent to the Local Fund Board merely remarking that there had been great delay in the matter but that Mr Hawksworth had had to abandon a very large range of Rock-cutting, therefore was about 12 per cent over the original Estimate of £14800, which had been abandoned for, the line changed, no progress

surveys or levels taken, the work passed for to be vigorously proceeded with, the Range Officer changed some times and the Overseer nearly as often, as it had taken nearly 4 years to construct seven miles of road in an open undulating country I considered the first thing to do was to complete the work as soon as possible and give the District the benefit of a good road - as only one mile remained to be finished.

I heard no more of this matter till the 20th May last when the Vice President submitted a long Minute on the subject to the Joint Boards entering into all kinds of details regarding which I had no information and could only obtain them from the only Overseer remaining in the District, which I had not offered to do and have since had one, but it was only the other day I ascertained that two Blocks had obtained and used against the numbers of

of this Department, information from
Mr Hawkesworth without my know-
-ledge and consent and as he well knows
the Government are likely to be put to
such proceedings & they will be said
enough to obtain their orders and
instructions in the matter as soon as
possible as I need hardly point out
it is quite impossible to work a Depart-
-ment under the Government if
their Local head is to be set aside in
this manner and the more so when
it was well known to the Vice President
what difficulties and troubles I had
to get Mr Hawkesworth to attend to
work or duties at all, and it is quite
clear from Mr Fawcett's explanations
Overseer
that Mr Hawkesworth gave himself no
trouble to ascertain the real facts and
circumstances of an Estimate which
he

had taken charge of that long time
before
his hand

The position of this Department
as regards the Local Fund Boards should
be considered & defined particularly as re-
-gards the Municipalities, as this Board
finds the Municipalities & the Vice President
& the Members of the Vice President pass
resolutions directing the smallest possible
reductions in the Estimates, altering or
augmenting items in the Estimates, altering
designs, plans and prating for more loss
of time & money than Amateur Engi-
-neering & Estimating is likely ever to recover

5 The slightest deviation from an
Estimate is declared to be "unprincipled"
Estimate is declared to be "unprincipled"
however arrived by whom it is made, or
for what purpose or object. At the same
time the Vice President admits he makes
what changes he likes in the Estimates
he himself carries out, taking care not
to exceed the grand total should respectfully
submit

submit that if the Engineers "responsible" in the one case, it cannot be considered right in the other simply because it is not likely to be found out by a non-professional officer over whom there is no check or control, & would avoid troubling the Government in such matters as the objections raised herein generally most trifling; and it was for that ~~the~~ reason not to lose time in dispensing them that if the officers of this Department were to be set aside and over-ridden in this manner long after they have left the District it is impossible to expect much interest can be taken by them in Canal Funds Works. For the work now complained of during the 4 years it has been under construction, in the Vice Presidents own taluqs, he himself having repeatedly seen it, no objections were raised till

the 2nd year last, 7 months after the ~~first~~ Estimate for it had been sent in, and all this time no work was doing then only after every officer connected with it had left the District & gone home & without one word of explanation ever having been called for from any one of them Mr Hawkesworth ~~sent~~ sent in a petition for the public service now really felt, surely it was advisable to move in the matter somewhat earlier and to ascertain after the line had been changed if the grant was likely to suffice and effect the object for which it had been given.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedt. Servt

Lewis Tucker Lieut. Col.

District Engineer Bundelcund

Public Works Dept.

No. 2200

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 29th July 1875

Read the following

From

The Dist: Engineer
Madura

} No. 1518 of 20th July 1875

In the above letter
the District Engineer,
Madura, brings to notice
that the Vice President,
Local Fund Boards, has
called upon as Range
Officer for information
regarding an Estimate
submitted to the Board
by the District Engineer,
without his knowledge,
and also that the Vice
President admits he
makes

No. 801

P. W. 1875 August
No. 4766

From

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Madras

Dated 31st July 1875.
Rec'd 2nd Aug.

No. 2200. 25-2-25.

Requesting Explanation
in the Collr. Carnatic's
letter and any information
he can furnish from the Ranger's Office
with both the Estimate
& report of the District
Engineer.

Encl - 2 [illegible] July 29/75
Answered 23 Sept 75 R 31-7-75

makes what changes he likes in the Estimates he carries out, taking care not to exceed the grants; and pointing out the difficulties he experiences in carrying on works under these circumstances, he asks for the orders of Govt. on the subject.

It is observed that in rule XLIII Local Fund Rules it is stated that the President may either arrange for the execution of a work in anticipation of sanction or may apply to the Range Officer (informing the Supdg Engineer that he has done so), and it should be inferred from this that when the President, to save time, applies for any information regarding an Estimate to the Range Officer, he should also inform the Supdg. Engr. (or District Engineer) of his proceedings.

As regards the deviations from Estimates made in carrying out works it is observed that they should always be sanctioned by competent authority, and in the case of works for which Completion Certificates have to be granted by Public Works Officers considerable difficulties

difficulties will arise when unauthorized deviations have been made.

The matter will be referred to the Revenue Dept. with a view to the Vice President being called on for explanation, and to orders being issued to ensure the Local Fund Rules being adhered to in future.

Sd/-

No 501-502

Rev. Dept. ✓ 21/-
D.E., Madras ✓ 6/-
27/-
2 Sec. Corps 17/-
17-8-75 44/-

4766

Govt. of [illegible]

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Secretary to Govt.

Dated

Read

Read

G.O. 29 July [illegible] No. 22

Nos 501 - 502

Local Fund Boards.—

Passing orders on letter from the Dir: Engr:, Madras, requesting to ascertain whether the President of the L.F.B. can ask any information from a Range Officer without the knowledge or consent of the Dir: Engr:-