

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	741	Press	<i>Original</i>
B.P. No.		Mis.	
Dated	17. 3.	195	1875

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th March 1875.*

No. 423 Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Financial Department, dated 9th December 1874, No. 2,065 —

ABSTRACT — *Virdachellum Circle* — The views of the Board of Revenue regarding the unexpended balances on works and their re-allotment by the Circle Board approved. The Public Works Department requested to give early consideration to the questions regarding increasing the Public Works Establishment of the district and regarding contracts.

No. 424 ORDER THEREON, 17th March 1875, No. 741.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 25.

It is observed in the Public Works Department that the Establishment allotted for supervision of Public Works in the South Arcot District consists of—

- 1 District Engineer,
- 1 Officer in charge of No. I or Cuddalore Range, consisting of three taluqs, with 1 Sub-divisional Officer,
- 1 Officer in charge of No. III or Virdachellum Range, consisting of three taluqs, with 1 Sub-divisional Officer,
- 1 Officer in charge of No. II or Tindevanum Range, consisting of two taluqs; being one District Engineer and one Sub-divisional Officer in excess of the strength previous to the re-organization of the Department, when the works were presided over by four Range Officers only. The full strength allowed has not always been kept up owing to removals and deaths, but every endeavour has been made to supply vacancies as they occurred, and there is no reason for supposing the fixed strength of the establishment if fully maintained to be inadequate.
2. The shortcomings indicated by the facts of the cases now brought forward do not show want of power to execute, so much as want of arrangement in budgetting and provision of estimates. Out of the eleven new works entered in the Local Fund Budget of 1873-74, with allotments aggregating Rupees 56,860, not one was sanctioned. The District Engineer will report why it was that no sanctioned estimates were ready for the Budget of 1873-74. It is observed that the want of such estimates has not recurred in 1874-75.
3. In the matter of contracts the District Engineer will report whether there is any objection to meeting the views of the Local Fund Board.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, South Arcot
" Financial Department.

Exd S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

2 1

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
9th December 1874.*

No 98 Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd October 1874, No 3084 —

Read the following letter from J H GARSTIN, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, South Arcot District, to J GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pondicherry, 24th August 1874, No. 78 —

At the request of the Virdachellam Local Fund Board, embodied in the resolution of which I enclose a copy, I have the honor to forward a copy of the Vice-President's letter of the 30th June last, No 75, and, in forwarding it, I must express my regret that, though it reached me on the 3rd July, it has not yet been forwarded. The cause of the delay was an attack of illness which prevented me from attending to my official duties for nearly three weeks, and since then, owing to changes in my office establishment, the paper was lost sight of

2 The Vice-President shows good reason in his letter for complaint on the part of the Virdachellam Board that the allotments for expenditure in that Circle are not nearly expended during the year for which made

3 I have acted on his suggestion in paragraph 2 and addressed the District Engineer and requested him to send in to me, by the end of November, a list of the sums which cannot be spent within the official year, so as to admit of increased expenditure on sanctioned works and of increased establishments being entertained

4 The manner in which twenty per cent of the whole allotment for repairs during 1873-74 was brought to account as expenditure during the last month of the year is a matter which requires attention, and I shall bring it to the District Engineer's notice with a view to such a procedure being avoided in future, while the complaints of the delay in the submission of estimates appeared to be but too well-grounded. No doubt the explanation in great measure is that the department was so short-handed that delay was inevitable, but this only proves the necessity for increasing the establishment

5 Lastly, with respect to the remarks in paragraph 16 of the Vice-President's letter, the only information which the Boards get of how their money is being expended by the Department of Public Works is contained in the abstracts of the Progress Reports submitted in accordance with Rule 79 of the Local Fund Rules. One copy of each Progress Report is sent to the President's Office from each Range, from which the abstracts are prepared and laid before the Local Fund Boards, but the information given in them is not sufficiently detailed to enable any check on expenditure to be exercised by the Local Fund Boards. As to contracts, none are ever sent to either Board for approval, and the explanation is perhaps to be found in the following extract from a letter from the District Engineer, in reply to one from me on the subject —

"I have the honor to inform you that the Virdachellam Dispensary work has not been given out on regular contract, but that one Armooga Moodelliar and Co were employed as suppliers, that the work given them is treated as task-work, and that hence no reference was made to the Local Fund Board." He adds that, "Prior to the receipt of my letter under reply, the Range Officer was also instructed that all buildings must be done departmentally, materials being purchased from or supplied by petty contractors"

6 The distinction drawn by the District Engineer seems to me rather a fine one. If Messrs Armooga Moodelliar and Co undertook to supply materials for the Virdachellam Dispensary, it may be presumed that they undertake to supply a certain quantity at a certain price, and within a certain time, and, as all the elements of a regular contract would under those circumstances be present, I cannot say I consider the District Engineer's explanation satisfactory. However, to prevent any misunderstanding on the point, it may perhaps be as well to order that all suppliers of material in excess of Rupees 20 in value shall sign written contracts (for which a simple printed form might be supplied), which should be forwarded to the Local Fund Board interested. Local Fund Members might then be able to observe the Contractors and the way in which they did their work, and bring any irregularity to the notice of the Range Officer and Local Fund Board.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
9th December 1874*

ENCLOSURE No 1

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Virdachellam Circle, dated 27th June 1874

Read accounts of the Circle for the official year

1 The Board observe that the balance on the 1st April exceeded one lakh, and they request the President to call the attention of Government to the fact that, out of Rupees 71,170 allotted by the Board for New Works, only Rupees 40,587 were spent during the last official year. The wants of the Circle are many and urgent, and the taxation is not in excess of them. The Local Fund Board is failing to benefit the Circle, simply because the money which the Board vote is not spent. As an instance of what the Circle suffers, with a large balance always in the Treasury, from long delays in the preparation of estimates and carrying out work, the Board ask the President to name the case of the bridge over the Khan Sahib Vaikal at Komarakshi. The bridge was washed away upwards of a year ago, and, as this road connects Mannargudi and Chellambram, the greatest possible inconvenience is experienced by the interruption of traffic. On the 30th June last, just a year ago, the Board requested the District Engineer to furnish a plan and estimate, but they have not yet been received.

(True Extract)

(Signed) A. L. LISTER,
Vice-President

ENCLOSURE No 2.

From A. L. LISTER, Esq., Vice-President of the Local Fund Board, Virdachellam Circle, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., President of the Local Fund Board, South Arcot, dated Kullakurchi, 30th June 1874, No 75

In forwarding a resolution of the Virdachellam Local Fund Board, which I request you to submit to Government in accordance with the wish of the Board, I have the honor to show, in the following statement, a list of seven new works on which the aggregate expenditure was only twenty-three per cent of the allotments —

	Allotment	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1 A Bridge over the Manimucktanady at Virdachellam	17,100	
2 Constructing 22 Tunnels on the Salem frontier road	5,900	2,753
3 Forming a road from Kullakurchi to Sankarapuram	5,000	2,012
4 Constructing a Choultry at Teagadroog	3,500	992
5 Constructing a Civil Dispensary at Virdachellam	5,400	1,016
6 Constructing a Choultry at Mangalam	3,500	1,503
7 Constructing a Bridge on the 21th mile of the Virdachellam Cuddalore Road	2,500	1,376
	42,900	9,952

2 With regard to the first item, the short expenditure is due to the late date when sanction was received, viz., February 13th, the money, however, was never surrendered. The Board were never informed that such a large sum would be wholly unexpended, and had, therefore, no opportunity of utilizing it. I would suggest that the District Engineer should, for the future, send to the Board a list by the 30th November of the sums which cannot be spent within the official year, and that the Local Fund Board should be empowered, with the concurrence of the District Engineer, to sanction works and to employ such additional establishment as the District Engineer may require, to enable the sums to be spent within the official year. The consequence of the alarmingly progressive increase in our balances. When the District Engineer is requested

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9th December 1874*

unable to spend the money, the President might be authorized to employ "Other Agency," which, however, it is very difficult to improvise at a moment's notice

	BALANCES	Road Fund Balance	Total Balance
		RS	PS
1st April 1872		19,614	26,946
Do 1873		58,835	87,628
Do 1874		67,749	1,08,040

3 In item No 2, only 2,753 Rupees were spent out of an allotment of Rupees 5,900 voted on the 28th September 1872 on Colonel Foord's recommendation. The District Engineer submitted the estimates to the Local Fund Board on the 2nd August 1873, and they were passed on the 11th idem, submitted by the President on the 13th idem, by the Board of Revenue on the 15th October, and sanctioned by Government on the 24th November.

4 Now there was no delay with us, within twelve days of the District Engineer submitting the estimates they were passed by the Local Fund Board and submitted to the Revenue Board by the President. The great delay was with the District Public Works Department, who, after ten months' delay, sent the estimate with an addition of Rupees 75 to Colonel Foord's recommendation.

5 In item No 3, only Rupees 2,012 were spent out of an allotment of Rupees 5,000. This money was voted in September 1872, and the estimate came and went with that of item No 2, but in this case the estimate probably had to be entirely framed after the Board made the allotment in September. I think, however, there should have been more money expended in the four working months after sanction was received. The small expenditure in April (Rupees 145) forbids the supposition that any considerable amount of work was done within the year which was not paid for.

6 In item No 4, only Rupees 992 out of 3,500 were expended, there was, I believe, some difficulty about the site. On the 26th February, thirty-three days before the close of the official year, the District Engineer addressed the Board for the first time about the site. The plan and estimate were sanctioned by Government on the 8th November 1873.

7 In item No 5, only 1,016 Rupees out of Rupees 5,400 were spent. On the 29th June 1872 the Local Fund Board allotted 4,000 Rupees for this work. A plan and estimate were sanctioned by Government in the Financial Department on the 30th July 1873, thirteen months after the first grant. This sanction was suspended by an order in the Public Works Department of the 21st August, and the revised plan and estimate were finally sanctioned on the 13th March 1874, nearly twenty-one months after the Board allotted funds for the work.

8 In item No 6, sanctioned by Government on the 8th November 1873, 1,803 Rupees were spent out of 3,500. Again, the late sanction is the cause of the short expenditure, but upwards of thirteen months elapsed between the date of the Board's allotting funds and the date of sanction, and this in the matter of a little choultry costing 6,400 Rupees.

9 In item No 7, the sum of Rupees 2,300 was voted by the Board on Colonel Foord's recommendation in September 1872, an estimate for Rupees 2,100 and plan were sanctioned by the Board of Revenue in September 1873, just a year afterwards. Now we are promised a revised estimate, and told that materials are being collected, but I submit that in a small matter of bridging, at a cost of a couple of thousand rupees, a little stream which carries away the surface drainage of the high land for a mile or so round, a revised estimate ought not to be necessary, the required waterway should be easily ascertainable, and as ten months elapsed (September 28th, 1872, to August 2nd, 1873) between the date of allotment and the date of the submission of the plan and estimate by the District Engineer, the Board have a right to complain that the plan which was submitted is so faulty that it cannot be acted on.

10 With regard to the short expenditure on the Virdachellam Dispensary and Mangalam Choultry, I would ask your attention to the District Engineer's memorandum, No 1303, of the 2nd February. "The Local Fund Overseer does not seem to know what this year's allotments are

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9th December 1874.*

for the Dispensary and Mangalam Choultry, nor has he plans and estimates, etc., for either." It is impossible to dispute Mr Norfor's proposition that "this is most unbusiness-like," and one might even go further and say that it "denotes a want of system and method."

11 It is not surprising that we suffer from short expenditure, if no one tells the Overseer what to spend or how to spend it. The plan and estimate for the Mangalam Choultry were sanctioned by Government on the 8th November, and should certainly have been in the Overseer's hands long before the 2nd February. The plan and estimate for Virdachellam Dispensary had not then been sanctioned.

12 I also beg your attention to the way in which ordinary work is either postponed to the end of the year or else not paid for at the time—a system which must lead to the Board being charged credit prices with a large balance always at hand, twenty per cent of the whole allotment for repairs last year was brought into the expenditure column in March.

13 This year, I regret to say, has not opened with brighter prospects. In April only 145 Rupees out of 11,000 Rupees were spent on the Sankarapuram road, a work which Mr Banbury wished to be pushed on. For the much needed tunnels on the Salem frontier road, only 304 Rupees were spent, while the expenditure on Mangalam Choultry was only 63 Rupees, and April and May, we are constantly told, are the best working months in the year, when any amount of labor is procurable, as nothing or next to nothing is being done in the fields.

14 With regard to the delay in the preparation of estimates, the Board wish you prominently to notice the case of a bridge over the Khan Sahib Vaikal. Just a year ago to-day, the Board asked for an estimate, and the delay, I believe, is in the Public Works Workshop at Madras, but the Local Fund Board have never asked to have an iron lattice girder-bridge; it was, I believe, to be more expensive than a masonry bridge, and there is no knowing when we shall get the estimate. In the mean time complaints are loud and numerous about the immense inconvenience suffered by the break in the road between the important towns of Chellambaram and Mannargudi.

15 I will cite another instance of delay. On the 30th July last, in Resolution No 9, the Board requested the District Engineer to have an estimate prepared for levelling and constructing tunnels on the road already formed between Kosavampettai and Geveraput. I was away on leave at the time, but I am told this is a very small matter, and yet eleven months have elapsed without the required estimate being submitted.

16 The Virdachellam Local Fund Board is almost entirely ignorant of the way in which money is spent in the Circle, the members do not see the working estimates, and have no idea what becomes of the large sums allotted for the repair of the very indifferently mented roads. Many works are done on contract, but not one single contract for work has been sent to be signed by the Vice-President and two of the members, although the Board, so long ago as the 27th July 1872, requested the Range Officer to observe that all contracts above Rupees 20 must be so signed, and of course it is needless to add that the Board have been wholly powerless to introduce the semblance of an economical charge into the administration of the Local Funds of the Circle.

17 The Board's one sole function is to allot funds, but if it cannot get estimates for the works it wishes to undertake, and cannot get its allotment spent after the wearisome waiting for plans, estimates, and sanction, I hope I may never be called to show cause why the Board should not be summarily abolished.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government

2 The Vice President of the Virdachellam Local Fund Board shows from the delay in preparing estimates and in executing sanctioned work that the staff of the Public Works Department in his Circle is too weak, and the balances are increasing steadily, whilst the development of the country requires that all the money that can be got should be spent. He complains that the Local Fund Board receive no notice of money which the Public Works Officers know they will be unable to spend on the works for which it is sanctioned, and should therefore surrender, long before the end of the year; that payment for work is needlessly deferred, so that the Local Fund Board have to pay credit prices whilst they have large balances in hand; and that they are kept ignorant of the way

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9th December 1874.*

in which money is spent. He requests that the District Engineer may be required to send a list to the Local Fund Board by the 30th November of all allotted sums which he cannot spend within the year, and that the Local Fund Board may be empowered to reallocate such sums to sanctioned works, and employ additional establishments to expend them.

3 The President has requested the District Engineer to send in to him, by the end of November, a list of the sums which he will be unable to spend within the official year. With regard to the control which the Local Fund Boards ought to have over expenditure, he suggests that all suppliers of material in excess of Rupees 20 in value should sign printed contracts, and that these contracts should be forwarded to the Local Fund Boards. It appears that in South Arcot the Public Works Department employ suppliers without requiring them to execute any contract.

4 The expediency of increasing the Public Works Establishment in South Arcot is represented in the papers recorded with Board's Proceedings, dated 8th September 1873, No 1,776 (not yet disposed of by Government), and G.O., dated 28th April 1874, No. 716. It is no doubt under consideration.

5 The District Engineer should certainly inform the President from time to time of the amount of allotments which he cannot expend during the year. This is always done with regard to Imperial and Provincial allotments. He should also take care that payment for work done is not needlessly deferred.

6 The Board do not think it would be safe to give the Local Fund Board the power to reallocate funds and entertain establishments on their own authority, which is proposed by Mr Lister.

7 Mr Garstin's observations on the subject of contracts are reasonable, and the Board think the District Engineer should be required to act in accordance with them. A form of contract prepared by the Government Solicitor has lately been circulated to all Presidents of Local Fund Boards. It is not "simple" in the sense of being short, but the Board are convinced it cannot safely be made shorter, and as the forms are to be kept in print this will not matter.

(True Copies and Extract)

(Signed) J GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 99. ORDER THEREON, 9th December 1874, No. 2065.

The expediency of increasing the Public Works Establishment in South Arcot, and the questions raised regarding contracts, will receive early consideration in the Public Works Department.

2. The views expressed by the Board of Revenue in paragraphs 5 and 6 of their Proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

Handwritten signature
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
Public Works Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

No of Government in the
Financial Dept (N.B. No 2065 d/9 Dec 1874)

I have passed the draft with
some alterations
and the ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~will be~~ ^{will be}
such will be ^{of}
the employment of them
some execution ^{agreed}
to 2 ^{proposed} ^{under the}
superintendence of District
Engineers

It is recommended that the
Public Works Dept. be
detached from the
superintendence of Public Works
in the South Arcot District
District Engineer.

Officers in charge of the 1 or
Cuddalore Range consisting
of 3 Salugs with 2 Sub Divisional
Officers.

1. Officer in charge of No 3 or
Virdachellam Range consisting
of 3 Salugs with 1 Sub Divisional
Officer.

1. Officer in charge of No 2 or
Enderam Range consisting
of 2 Salugs.

being District Engineer and
1 Sub Divisional Officer in
excess of the strength previous
to

have an objection to an
exemption order of this
kind - No 2 & 3 of Madras
has not complained without
good reason & I am not
inclined to meet the one
plaint - Reason ^{is}
reasonable & excuse unless
the Local Officer can set
out some reason the
collection of the State
crimes to refer the St.

No 2065 d/9 Dec 1874
N.B. No 2065 d/9 Dec 1874
2065 d/9 Dec 1874

8 N. 1874 & 2065
1. N.B. No 2065 d/9 Dec 1874
2065 d/9 Dec 1874

FINANCIAL.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Ac, Ac, Ac

Date December 9th
Resd. 213

G.O. 9th December 1874, No 2065.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 98-99

Virdachellam Circle - The views of the Board
Revenue regarding the unexpended balances of
works and their re-employment by the Circle Board
approved. The Public Works Department is requested
to give early consideration to the questions regarding
increasing the Public Works establishment in
the district and regarding contracts.

Dec 423

G.O. No 741. 17-3-75

19-2-75

to the reorganization of the Department when the work was proceeded over by 4 Range Officers only.

The full strength allowed has not always been kept up, owing to removals and deaths, but every endeavor has been made to supply vacancies as they occurred, and there is no reason for supposing the full strength of the establishment if fully maintained, to be inadequate.

2. That the first year's operations under the reorganization have not been satisfactory is partly owing to the fact of Cuddalore having been the Head Quarters of the late Superintending Engineer Col. Ford whose thorough knowledge of the District and

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Mr. Howard there has been a real Mr. Howard's letter with

Mr. Howard's letter with

This may be but Mr. Howard has not been old hand over State work has been bad

This is clearly the fault of S.D.R. officers

The S.D.R. officers

I sincerely regretted this procedure: it is useful to be ruled by

and long experienced enabled him to do more with a smaller staff than his less able and less experienced successors have effected at first. The short do coming indicated by the do facts of the cases now brought forward do not (however) show want of power to execute, so much as want of arrangement and in budgeting and provision of estimates. Out of the 11 new books entered in the Local Fund Budget of 1873-74 turn with allotments aggregating Rs. 10,000, not one was sanctioned. Such entries are contrary to the rules for the preparation of Budgets in the Public Works Dept. And it is suggested that the Rule which permits their entry in Local Fund Budgets of

If the work is expected to be
sanctioned within 4 months
after commencement of the
Official Year should not be
extended to allow of more
but unsanctioned work being
entered in any Budget List
under the circumstances it is
not surprising that the
expenditure was very short.

It is observed from the Budget
of 1874-75 that the want of
sanctioned estimates for entry
in Budgets has not occurred

In the matter of contracts
it would appear that the object
of the President of the Local
Fund Board of the South
African District might be at-
tained by the District Engineer
supplying him with a memo
of the rates at which Range
Officers are authorized to accept
supplies of materials from

Petty

One is piced to ask
What is to be done?
If D. G. is all for the
the Estimates that are
Local Officer & the Board?

I will ask the D. G.
whether there is any
objection to for meeting
the views of the Board
Yes

Petty Contractors. But it is
not understood how the being
furnished with such memos
or Contracts will enable mem-
bers of Local Fund Boards
to observe how Contractors do
their work. Local Fund Boards
can check the rates of estimates
by calling for the data in
which they are framed. And
so long as the work is
carried out within the rates
passed by the Boards no
further check on expenditure
seems to be necessary. It is
certainly inadvisable to hamper
by inspections and reflections
the operations of the Public
Works Executives which the
District Engineer is bound to
superintend. Local Fund works
cannot require exceptional
treatment from Imperial
and Provincial works.

Chambers

P 108

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following

Pro: of Govt in the
Financial Deptt H S 2 20657 of 1
741 Decr/74

It is observed in
the Public Works Deptt
that the Establishment
allotted for supervision
of Public Works in the
South Arcot Distⁿ con
sists of

- 1 District Engr
- 1 Officer in charge of
N^o 1 or Cuddalore
Range consisting of
3 Taluqs with 1 sub
divisional Officer
- 1 Officer in charge of N^o 3
or Tiruchellur Range
consisting of 3 Taluqs with
1 sub divisional Officer
- 1 Officer in charge of N^o 2
or Indravathi Range
consisting of 2 Taluqs

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Mb
6/3

being 1 District Insp. &
1 sub divisional Officer
in excess of the strength
previous to the reorganization
of the Dept. when the
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been kept up owing to
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but every endeavour has
been made to supply
vacancies as they occurred;
and there is no reason
for supposing the fixed
strength of the Establish-
ment is fully maintained
to be inadequate.

The shortcomings
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9a
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Out of the 11 new works
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for the Budget of 1873/74.
It is observed that the
want of such Estimates
has not occurred in
1874/75.

In the matter of
contracts the D. Insp.
will report whether there
is any objection to
meeting the views of the
Local Fund Board.

To the P. B. South coast
Financial Dept.
Decr. 18-3-75.

G. M. W.

Govt. of 1875, Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Int. Engineer
South Arcot.

Dated

Recd

Encl

G O. 17th Mar 1875, No

741

Nos. 423. 424.

Establishment - South
Arcot District

Referring orders, with
~~reference to~~ on Pro
of the Hon^{ble} Dept., requesting
early consideration to the
questions regarding increasing
the P.W. Estab^t of the district
and regarding contracts.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

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Public Works DEPARTMENT

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