

(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. 1040 | (W) Press |
| B.P. No.      | Mis.      |

Dated 26-4-1876.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
26th April 1876.*

No. 326. Read the following letter from Captain L. CONWAY-GORDON, R.E., Examiner of Public Works Accounts, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 11th April 1876, No. 18 W.:—

I HAVE the honor to call the attention of Government to G.O., No. 489, dated 23rd February 1876, when read in connection with pages 195—206 of the last edition of the Army List.

2. The system which apparently obtains in the Lawrence Asylum Press of changing the fount of type after the proof sheets have been corrected is unusual and should I think be stopped, as it is evident that if the type is set up again after the proof sheets have been corrected, there is little or no use in correcting the proof. But without dwelling on this point, I have to point out that the matter in the last edition of the Official Army List in connection with the Public Works Establishment yet teems with errors.

3. The error against the name of Major-General Walker has not been corrected; and against my own name, although I wrote an official letter especially on the subject, not only have some of the original errors not been corrected, but a new error also has crept in. The letter H, now added, has absolutely no meaning at all.

4. The Army List being for the 1st April, the entries under '*District or other duty on which employed*' against the names of Major Ross Thompson and Captain Brockman are incorrect. On page 119, Major R. Thompson appears in his proper rank as Major; in pages 197, 200, and 204, he appears as Captain.

5. According to page 119, Major Vibart got his Majority in March 1875, but though this information appears to have reached page 197, it does not appear to have yet arrived at page 204 where Major Vibart yet appears as a Captain.

6. At page 200 there is a list of the District Engineers, of whom one only Mr. Grant is acting. Proceeding further, one finds these same officers in the column of remarks appearing apparently indifferently as '*District Engineers*' and as '*in charge of District*' (sometimes even without any remark); the intended difference in the remarks judging from the case of Mr. Grant, being apparently to indicate that the officers marked as '*District Engineers*' were permanent and those '*in charge of Districts*' were only acting. If this be the intended difference, the remarks are wrong; and if not, they mean simply nothing.

7. At page 201, Major Hasted is represented as on privilege leave on the 1st April. Actually, on the very opposite page he is represented as on duty, so he is on page 196, the fact being that he returned from duty on the 7th January.

8. These are some of the obvious errors which have struck me whilst casually criticising the information afforded about a few officers with whom I am personally acquainted. Judging from these, the number of errors these pages would yield, if thoroughly examined and carefully compared with the establishment records of this office, must be great indeed.

9. The Army List is essentially one of those works which, if not compiled with strict accuracy, is very much worse than useless. Should there not be sufficient information available in your office to have these proof sheets properly

ten

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
26th April 1876.*

corrected, I shall be happy to have the work done in this office, and I will take care that the printers do not alter their fount and reset up their type after the proof sheets have been corrected.

No. 363.

ORDER THEREON, 26th April 1876, No. 1,040.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 29.

AN examination of the final proof sheets, which have been obtained from the Lawrence Asylum Press for the

purpose, shows that the inaccuracies pointed out by the Examiner in his letter recorded with G.O., No. 489, dated 23rd February 1876, and repeated in the latest edition of the Army List were duly noticed and rectified in the Secretariat.

2. The corrections, however, were not carried out by the Press. The entries under column "District or other duty on which employed" were made with reference to the office registers as they appeared at the time the proof sheets were undergoing examination in accordance with previous practice. It would doubtless be more accurate to have carried the entries back to the end of the period embraced by the Army List; but this would have involved much more labor than could well be afforded at the time. Much more attention has been bestowed upon the correction of these proof sheets since the matter attracted official attention than was ever devoted to them previously; but the agency at the disposal of the Secretariat is not such as is calculated to ensure that perfect accuracy which is desirable, and which the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, with the agency at his command and the strong personal interest which he takes in the matter, will doubtless be enabled to attain should the work be undertaken by him as proposed in his letter above recorded. The offer made by Captain Conway-Gordon is accordingly accepted with thanks. He is desired to be so good as to place himself in communication with the Secretary to the Lawrence Asylum Committee, Madras, to whom these Proceedings will also be communicated; and that gentleman will be asked to co-operate with the Examiner in the object of rendering the Public Works portion of the Army List as accurate as possible.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.  
Secretary of Lawrence Asylum Committee, Madras.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.  
Spare Copies

[Cr. Wks. Form No. 2.]

From

THE CONTROLLER,  
PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS,

To

The Secretary to Government,  
Public Works Department,  
FORT SAINT GEORGE, 11th April 1876.

Sir I have the honor to call the attention of Government to Government Order N. 489 dated February 23rd 1876, when read in connection with pages 195-206 of the last edition of the Army List.

2. The system which apparently obtained in the Lawrence Asylum Press of changing the fount of type after the proof sheets have been corrected is universal and should I think be stopped, as it is evident that if the type is set up again after the proof sheets have been corrected, there is little or no use in correcting the proof. But without dwelling on this point, I have to point out that the matter in the last edition of the official Army List in connection with the Public Works Establishment yet

terms with errors.

3 The error against the name of Major General Walker has not been corrected, and against my own name, although I wrote an official letter especially on the subject, not only have some of the original errors not been corrected, but a new error also has crept in. The letter H now added has absolutely no meaning at all.

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5 According to page 119 Major Vibart got his Majority in March 1875 but though this information appears to have reached page 197, it does not appear to have yet arrived at page 204 where Major Vibart yet appears as a Captain.

6 At page 200 there is a list of the District Engineers, of whom one only, Mr Grant

is acting. Proceeding further, one finds these same Officers in the column of remarks appearing apparently indifferently as District Engineers and as in charge of District (sometimes even without any remark). The intended difference in the remarks, judging from the case of Mr Grant being apparently to indicate that the Officers marked as District Engineers were permanent and those in charge of District were only acting. If this be the intended difference, the remarks are wrong; and if not, they mean simply nothing. (5)

7 At page 201 Major Hasted is represented as on privilege leave on the 1st April. Actually on the very opposite page he is represented as on duty so he is on page 196, the fact being that he returned from duty on the 7th January.

8 These are some of the obvious errors which have struck me whilst casually criticising the information afforded about a few Officers with whom I am personally acquainted. Judging from these, the number of errors these pages would yield if thoroughly examined and carefully compared with the

the Establishment records of this Office, must  
be great indeed.

The Army List is essentially  
one of those works which, if not compiled with  
strict accuracy, is very much worse than useless.  
Should there not be sufficient information  
available in your office to have these proof sheets  
properly corrected, I shall be happy to have  
the work done in this office, and I will take  
care that the printers do not alter their font  
and reset up their type, after the proof sheets  
have been corrected.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

Lowmy-Gordon

Examiner P. W. Accounts

10/4/26

G.O. 25th Feb 1876 No 489.

S. W. 1876 Rep.  
No: 2677

From  
The Examiner  
R.W. Accounts

To  
The Secretary to Government  
R.W. Department

N<sup>o</sup> 1810.

dated 11 April 1876  
Recd 12

Printing out the  
errors which still exist  
in the last edition of the  
Army List.

N<sup>o</sup> 362

Ex. 14-4-76 P.W. 26-4-76

supd to only 13-4-76 Recd

Para 3.

Remarks by Mr. Chief  
Examiner in letter  
No. 18 W. of 11 April 1876.

The final proof  
sheets have been obtained  
from the Laurence  
Academy, and it  
will be seen from these  
that it is not the  
fault of the Examiner  
of the proofs that there  
were any errors.

Para 14. Clause.

Hitherto it has been  
the practice to check  
the columns, District  
or other duty, in which  
employed, with the  
Office Register as they  
appeared at the time  
the proof sheets were  
undergoing examination.  
It would involve much  
labor to have to go  
back to a prior date,  
which the establishment

Clerk could not at all  
times afford.

The correction of these  
Proof sheets has not  
hitherto been regarded  
as strictly official work,  
but as private work  
for which separate  
remuneration should  
be given. And although  
the Establishment Clerk  
in the P. W. Secretariat  
has not been allowed  
to accept money for  
his labor, it is under-  
stood that the Estab-  
lishment Clerk in the  
Adjutant General's  
Office receives a regular  
monthly stipend of \$20  
or \$25 from the  
Lawrence. Acquisition  
Press. Since the subject  
has attracted official  
attention more pains  
than hitherto have  
been bestowed in the  
P. W. Secretariat on the  
correction of Proof sheets.

An examination of  
the Proofs submitted  
will show that the  
work on the last  
occasion was not by  
any means scamped,  
but that many hours  
of labor, watched  
from legitimate official  
occupations, were devoted  
to it.

As pointed out  
by the Examiner in para-  
graph 9 of his letter it is of  
great importance that  
the Army List should  
be perfectly accurate;  
and if the work  
continues to be done  
in the Secretariat  
endeavors will be  
made to attain  
perfect accuracy.  
The Examiner has  
however offered to  
do the work in his  
own office; and as  
he has now ample  
agency at command  
that

than the Secretariat  
possesses it may be  
well to accept the  
offer.

It may be added to  
conclusion that in no  
other Dept of the  
Secretariat in the same  
amount of detailed  
work required of the  
clerks as in the P.W. Dept.  
Whenever work of this  
nature turns up in other  
Depts it is considered  
quite proper to call  
on the Executive Dept  
concerned to carry it  
out.

R.P.  
22.4.76

Cir. 24.4.76  
C. S. P. 744

N<sup>o</sup> 1040

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 26<sup>th</sup> April 76.

Read the following:—

From the Examiners of } H.E. No 18 W of 11 April 76  
P.W. Accounts } *Print* ①

An examination  
of the final proof sheets,  
which have been obtained  
from the Lawrence Agy-  
lun Press for the pur-  
pose, shows that the in-  
accuracies pointed out  
by the Examiners in  
his letter recorded with  
f.O. No 489 dated 23<sup>rd</sup>  
February 1876 and repeated  
in the latest edition of  
the Army List were duly  
noticed and rectified  
in the Secretariat.

The

2  
The corrections however  
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the Pres. The entries  
under column "Dis-  
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employed" were made  
with reference to the  
Office Registers as  
they appeared at the  
time the proof sheets  
were undergoing ex-  
amination in accord-  
ance with previous  
practice. It would  
doubtless be more  
accurate to have  
carried the entries back  
to the end of the period  
embraced by the Army  
List; but this would  
have involved much  
more labor than could  
well

5  
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time. Much more atten-  
tion has been bestowed  
upon the correction of  
these proof sheets since  
the matter attracted  
official attention than  
was ever devoted to  
them previously; but  
the Agency at the dis-  
posal of the Secretariat  
is not such as is cal-  
culated to ensure that  
perfect accuracy which  
is desirable, and which  
the Examiner of Public  
Works Accounts, with  
the Agency at his com-  
mand and the strong  
personal interest which  
he takes in the matter,  
will doubtless be enabled  
to attain should the  
work

1 work be undertaken by  
him as proposed in  
his letter above recorded.

2 The offer made by Capt.  
Conway Gordon is ac-  
cordingly accepted with  
thanks. He is desired  
to be so good as to  
place himself in com-  
munication with the

Secretary to the Lawrences  
Aylmer Committee,  
Madras, to whom these  
Proceedings will also be  
communicated; and  
that gentleman will  
be asked to co-operate  
with the Examiners in  
the object of rendering  
the Public Works por-  
tion of the Army list  
as accurate as possible.

N. 362/3

Examiners, Mr. Aub.  
Secy., L. A. Committee, Madras.  
Dated 5/5/6

2677✓

Govt of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Examined of P. W. & C.

Handwritten notes in margin: "The... to till with..."

Handwritten signature and date: "28-4-1860"

Encl.

G. O. 26<sup>th</sup> April 1860, No. 1040

Nos. 262/18

Army List

Passing orders on  
letter from the Secy.  
to accels pointing  
out certain errors  
which still exist in  
the last edition of the

Handwritten notes at bottom: "8/5/60" and "1/1/60"