

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1294 (w) Press
B.P. No. Mis

Dated 23.5. 1876 ..

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 412. 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, 4th April 1876, No. 5 W :—

In my letter No. 13 W, dated 16th June 1875, I had the honor to call the attention of Government to certain losses that had taken place in the collection of the rents of Military buildings at Bangalore.

2. I have now to report a further and a more serious loss on the same account at the Presidency. It would appear that a sum of Rupees 100 per mensem is due from the European Regiment at the Presidency as the rental of their mess-house in Fort St. George. This rent was paid regularly up to February 1872. About that time the 45th Regiment were relieved by the 2-21st Regiment, the Commanding Officer of which omitted the mess building in his first monthly statement of rents recoverable. The omission was not discovered by the Barrackmaster, nor by the District Engineer, nor by this office, neither in that month, nor in any succeeding month, till January 1876.

3. By that date the arrears of rent had accumulated as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
The 2/21st Regiment from 9th February 1872 to 2nd December 1872	978	13	10
1/21st Regiment from 3rd Dec. 1872 to 25th February 1875...	2,582	13	4
89th Regiment from 26th February 1875 to 31st Dec. 1876 ...	1,010	11	6
Total ...	4,572	6	8

Of this, the last item due from the 89th Regiment has been recovered, the two former items, aggregating Rupees 3,561-11-2, are irrecoverable and must be written off.

4. That for four entire years the Barrackmaster, the District Engineer, and the Examiner remained in complete ignorance of the fact that this building had been omitted from the monthly return of rents, and that in consequence no rent had been collected for it, is certainly, at first sight, very surprising; but as regards this office, the fact is really not surprising under the system in force as described in my two former letters, No. 13 W and 43 W. As was there shown, the return of buildings sent in to this office does not include all the buildings available for rent, whether rented or not but only those for which rent has been actually recovered, and, in consequence, any building for which rent is not recovered is omitted from the return.

5. The only way this office can exercise a real check over the Executive officers is to have an independent list of all public buildings. In Bombay, the Examiner has such a list, which is carefully kept complete to date. The Examiner furnishes each executive officer with printed copies of lists of all the rentable buildings in his Division, and it is on these printed lists that the rent recovered for the buildings is monthly entered and advised to the Examiner. Besides saving clerical labor, these lists evidently prevent buildings being altogether overlooked, as in the present instance.

6. In Madras, it does not appear that such a list exists. Last December, with a view to collecting the necessary information, I issued a circular of which the accompanying is a copy, but the delay which is taking place in replying to this circular convinces me that even the local officers themselves have no lists of their public

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd May 1876.

buildings. Perhaps in accordance with Chapter III, paragraph 15, of the Madras Public Works Code, you have, in your office, descriptive lists of all the public buildings in the Presidency. If so, I should be glad if you will allow one of my clerks to take a copy, for without a complete list of all public buildings I can, I confess, see no way clearly of checking the returns of rents which monthly are submitted to me.

No. 413.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1876, No. 1,291.

ACCOUNT, No. 23.

This letter will be communicated to the Military Department for inquiry as to the conduct of the Barrackmaster of Fort St. George; who appears from paragraph 4 of the Deputy Examiner's Note recorded with G.O., No. 3,077, of 30th October, to be primarily responsible for the supply to the Presidency District Engineer of a monthly statement of quarters occupied and rents due; the District Engineer having merely to see that the amounts therein shown are in due course realized.

2. It is also remitted for consideration in the Military Department whether the sums of Rupees 978-13-10 and Rupees 2,582-13-4, due by the Messes of the 2-21st and 1-21st respectively, are recoverable, or must be written off.

3. The Examiner will expedite submission of the detailed arrangements for collection and record of rents which he was instructed by G.O., No. 3,077, of 30th October, to work out as suggested in his letter No. 13 of 16th June 1875.

(True Extract.)

Cc: Encl.

Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Military Department.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" District Engineer, Presidency.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

(Cr. Wks. Form No. 2.)

No.

5W

From

THE CONTROLLER,
PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,

11 April

1876.

Sir,
In my letter No. 13W dated June 16th 1875, I had the honor to call the attention of Government to certain losses that had taken place in the collections of the rents of Military Buildings at Barrackmaster's.

I have now to report a further and a more serious loss in the same account at the Presidency. It would appear that a sum of Rupees 100-0-0 per month is due from the Europeans Regiment at the Presidency as the rental of their Mess House in Fort St. George. This rent was paid regularly up to February 1872. About that time the 45th Regiment were relieved by the 21st Regiment; the Commanding Officer of which omitted the Mess building in his first monthly statement of rents recoverable. The omission was not discovered by the Barrackmaster, nor by the District Engineer, nor by this Office, neither in that month nor in any succeeding months, till January.

January 1876.

3 By that date the arrears of rent had accumulated as follows.

The 21st Requisition from 9th February 1872

to 2nd December 1872 _____ Rs 978-13-10

11th 21st do " 3rd December

1873 to 25th February 1875 _____ " 2582-13-14

89th Requisition " 26th February

1875 to 31st December 1876 _____ " 1010-11-6

Total Rs 4,572-6-8

Of this, the last item due from the 89th Requisition has been recovered, the two former items, aggregating Rupees 3561-11-2, are irrecoverable and must be written off.

4 That for four or five years, the Barrack-master, the District Engineer, and the Examiner remained in complete ignorance of the fact that this building had been omitted from the monthly return of rents, and that in consequence no rent had been collected for it; is certainly, at first sight, very surprising; but as regards this Office, the fact is really not surprising under the system in force as described in my two former letters Nos 13W and 43W. As was there shown, the return of buildings sent in to this Office does not include all the buildings available for rent, whether rented or not, but only those for which rent has been actually recovered, and in consequence, every building for which rent is not

recovered

recovered is omitted from the return.

5 The only way this Office can exercise a real check over the Executive Officers is to have an independent list of all Public Buildings. In Bombay, the Examiner has such a list, which is carefully kept complete to date. The Examiner furnishes each Executive Officer with printed copies of lists of all the portable buildings in his Division, and it is from these printed lists that the rent recovered for the buildings is, monthly entered, and advised to the Examiner. Besides saving clerical labor, these lists evidently prevent buildings being altogether overlooked, as in the present instance.

6 In Madras, it does not appear that such a list exists. Last December, with a view to collecting the necessary information, I issued a Circular of which the accompanying is a copy, but the delay which is taking place in replying to this Circular convinces me that even the local Officers themselves have no lists of their Public Buildings. Perhaps in accordance with Chapter III, Para 15 of the Madras Public Works Code, you have, in your Office, descriptive lists of all the Public Buildings in the Presidency. If so, I should be glad, if you will allow one of my clerks to take a copy, for without a complete list of all Public Buildings, I cannot, I confess, see any way clearly of checking the

returns

returns of rents which ^{monthly} probably and submitted to me.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servant

Lorway-Jordon

Examiner, P. W. Accounts.

S. W. 1876 Sept.
No. 2485

From
The Commander of
P. W. Accounts

To
The Secy. of Govt.
P. W. Dept.

Dated 4th } April 1876
Recd 5 }
N^o 5W

Bringing to the notice of
Government the large
top of Ro 3561-11-2 being
rent from 9th Feby 1872 to
26th Feby 1875 for the quarters
occupied as the Officer's ^{House} Hoop
in the Fort

968
3/4/76

968
3/4/76

FORMER CASES.

Current No. of 187 .

"
"
"
"

1876 Sept.
M. WORKS FORM No. 3.

Current No. 2485

From

The Examiner
P.W. Accts.

No. SW }
Dated 4. } April 1876.
Recd. 5. }

Primo: 7/139 of 5/5/76

Subject:- Bringing to notice
the large bill of Rs. 3561-11-2
being sent from 9 Feb. 1872
to 25 Feb. 1875 for the quarters
occupied as the Officer's
mess house in the Fort.

LATER CASES.

Current No. of 187 .

"
"
"

ENCLOSURES.

From to
"
"
"

Orders and Proceedings in file.

Depart- ment.	No.	Date.	ENDORSEMENTS.		
			Depart- ment.	No.	Dated.
P.W.	921	28/3/71	P.W.	1657	12/6/75
	1622	17/6/74	Contd. Lint.	1187	7/12/75
	3077	30/10/75	1 Office Lint.		
	1558	12/6/74			
	2220	12/8/74			
	149	6/8/74			
	2338	25/1/76			

No 1294

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 23rd May 1876.
READ the following:-

From

The Examiner of Public
Works Accounts

(No. E. No. 5 Wd 14th April 1876)

This letter will be
communicated to the Military
Department for inquiry as
to the conduct of the Barrack
Master of Fort Saint George,
who appears from para 4 of
the Deputy Examiner's Note
recorded with G.O. No. 3077 of
30th October to be primarily
responsible for the supply
to the Presidency District
Engineer of a monthly
Statement of Quarters oc-
cupied and Rents due;

the

N. 412

Cir-20/8/76 P.W. 22/6/76
Despatch 12/6/76

the District Engineer having
merely to see that the amounts
therein shewn are in due
course realized

2. It is also remitted
for consideration in the
Military Department whether
the sums of Rs 978-13-10
and Rs 2582-13-4, due
by the Mepees of the 2/21st
and 1/21st respectively, are
recoverable, or must be
written off.

3. The Examiner will
expedite submission of the
detailed arrangements for
collection and record of
rents which he was instruct-
ed by G.O. No 3077 of 30th
October, to work out as
suggested in his letter.

No.

13^c
No. 13 of 15th June 1875.

G.M.

The Dirly Dept. ✓
Examiner, M. Accts ✓
Lt. Inq. Presidency ✓

D. & P. 7/6/76

No. Att.

248511

Cobl. of 1876 Madrid.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Military Rep.

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl.

C. O. 23 May 1876, No. 1294

NOV. 4/2/72

Sub. in Rep.
9-8-72

Quarters occupied as the
Officers Mess House in
Fort St. George - Passing

orders in letter from the
Supt. P.W. Works reporting the
loss of W-3561-11-2 being
rent from 9th July/72 to
26th July/75 for the