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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	(1753)	(12) Press
~~B.P. No.~~	1755	~~Mis.~~ ✓ <i>Min</i>
Dated	11 - 7 -	1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 8146

From THE CONTROLLER,
PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS.

To The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department

FORT SAINT GEORGE, 24th June 1860

Sir

I have the honor to forward for the
information of Government copies of correspondence
from District Engineer, Nilgiris dated 5th June 1856 to the
Principal Commissioner, Cochinamund, No 24 dated
3rd March 1856 to District Engineer, Nilgiris
from District Engineer, Nilgiris dated 1st March 1856 to Secretary,
Cochinamund, Municipal Commission
from Secretary, Cochinamund, Municipal Commission dated 3rd May 1856 to District Engineer, Nilgiris
from District Engineer, Nilgiris dated 5th June 1856 to Government,
Public Works Accounts
Copy of letter from Government, Public Works Accounts No 10 dated 1st April 1856 to District Engineer, Nilgiris
Addressed Separately

2. From this correspondence Government will observe that in order to protect the roads at Cochinamund, the District Engineer, Nilgiris has had, and probably will have again to expend money, which the Cochinamund Municipality is put in a position at once to refund. Having agreed to act as Scribe-house for the Trustees of the 13 weeks Moor-mat Fund, and placed parties in funds for this purpose

purpose, the District Engineer knowing the Trustees were raising money, considered it advisable to proceed with the building rather than to adopt the ruinous alternative of stopping the work and disbanding the labor. Local where Public Works business is slack, he finds it convenient in the interests of Government to be able to employ his imported skilled labor and carrying out for planters and others odd jobs, for which he frequently is unable to make out an estimate, and for which price, whether he is offered, not paid till after the job is completed.

3 The result is that these items until paid stand in the Divisional Miscellaneous Advances Accounts, and most object and delaying this correspondence before Government is to tell them that these items are there. Their priorities and aggregate amount can best be judged by a reference to the accompanying list.

4 For the advantages of the practice at present pursued, I must leave Captain Morant and letters to speak. It is undoubtedly difficult in a half-developed country to draw a very distinct line between what should be carried out by the Government, and what may be left to private enterprise, and until there is a sufficient demand on the Nilgiri Hills to attract skilled labor it might well seem policy on the part of Government to assist in supplying it.

5 And the other hand, it is only right for me to point out that in carrying out work without prepayment

prepayment of the estimated cost there is always some risk of the work not being paid for at all. With the best intentions, Committees sometimes fail in realising their subscriptions. Individuals die suddenly and there is a difficulty in dealing with their intestate estates. The practice is also opposed to the Public Works Code which prescribes that before work is executed by the Public

Public Works Code. Works Department for Municipalities
XX. II. 52A

and for private individuals, the amount of the proposed expenditure must be prepaid.

6 Under the peculiar circumstances of the Nilgiri Division it has however occurred to me that Government may regard the question from a broad administrative point of view rather than from a narrow financial one. To incur the risk has to be put as certain amount of public convenience, and it may be some slight encouragement to European capital and private enterprise. The risk, such as it is, cannot be more than is at present involved in carrying out jobs in the Madras Public Works Workshops for the public good, and with an Officer of Captain Morant's experience, prudence may be expected to be hissing. The Nilgiri Division is a Provincial Division, all its suspense balances are Provincial and there consequently seems no objection to the Local Government relaxing the rules in this particular case and accepting the risk should they consider the advantages justify them in doing so.

7 My sole object is to have the matter placed

placed in a proper footing by an expression of the opinion
of Government thereon. I part from my duties as
Examiner. I feel it cannot be right to permit any
Officer by expending public money against the letter
of the rules to incur a personal liability or account
of what he honestly believes to be a public purpose.
I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servant

Lowrey Gordon

Examiner, P.W. Accounts

Nilgiri Division. Balances of Miscellaneous Advances remaining out at the end of March 1876 on account of Municipalities, Committees, & Private - disbursements

No.	Particulars of Transactions.	Amount in - Standing the 1st of March 1876
1	<u>Ootacamund Municipality.</u> Cost of Repairs to Roads —	1920
2	<u>M. M. Sayer.</u> Value of work done —	24 6
3	<u>Trustees of Perpetual Memorial Fund.</u> Value of work done to Perpetual School in excess of deposit —	913 12
4	<u>Ootacamund Municipality</u> Value of work done to Water Supply Channel in excess of deposit —	546 2
5	<u>Colonel E. L. Hankin.</u> Value of work done —	19 12
		3424 1

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District Engineer's Office
Pottacamund 5 June 1846

No. 173
From

The District Engineer
Nilgiris

The Examiner
P. Works Accounts
Madras

For

With reference to your letter No. 2
N. 4 dated 27 Ultimo I beg to invite your attention
to the peculiarities of this District and trust
you will be pleased to admit that an exceptional
treatment of works done under Miscellaneous
advances is admissible.

2. It is extremely difficult in this
District to obtain labor. Common Cooly labor is in
great demand by the Planters, and skilled labor
is all imported. Contractors of any kind can
hardly be said to exist. Private persons thus
find it almost impossible to obtain labor for
themselves and the demands on the Engineer's
for assistance in all kinds of petty works are
large. It is at the same time very generally

a convenience to this Department to do work for private parties. For all Bricklayers, Carpenters and Blacksmiths having to be engaged on stamped agreements and brought up from Trichinopoly, Tanjore and Madurai it is often a loss when no Government work happens to be in hand to have other work in which these men can be engaged, until they can again be put upon some Government work. There is also much material such as waste timber &c. which can be utilized profitably on such work.

When asked by private persons to do any work there is often no time to prepare an Estimate, the work being required urgently. And in many cases the works are so undefined that it would cause much labor to prepare an Estimate and entail needless toil in Subordinates with already plenty to do. I am frequently asked to do urgent work for His Grace the Governor or His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and it is impossible to

to decline to do it (even if I wished to do so) until an Estimate had been prepared and the value of the Estimate paid in to this Office.

No change is made to private individuals in accounts of Establishments. Looking to the benefits that this Department gains by doing such work I trust you will not insist upon such a change being ^{made} ~~made~~.

I beg you will kindly inform me if you require further information on this head.

I need hardly add that I will do all in my power to obey your instructions and those of the Code to which you refer me.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. L. Morant Captain R. B.
District Engineer

(True Copy)

Charles A. Supton
Supt. Correspondance Branch
Office of Examiner P. W. Accounts
4/23/76

22.6.76

Nr 4537/96.

Municipal Commissioners Office
Cotacamund 3rd March 1876.

Nr 246

From

The Honorary Secretary
Cotacamund Municipal Commission

To

Captain J. L. L. Morant R. E.
District Engineer
Nilgiris

Sir,

In reply to your letter Nr 46 dated
16th February 1876, I have the honor to state
that I hope to be able to discharge the sums
due to you on account of materials before the
end of this month. As regards the remaining
sums due on account of the roads I regret that
I cannot promise so early a settlement. As
soon as possible this will be discharged.

2. The large sums outstanding as
arrears of house rates and carriage taxes
will be collected as soon as possible, but I
cannot be sure of collecting enough in this
month to pay off all demands.

3. From the coming year to obviate
the

the recurrence of the present unsatisfactory
state of affairs, I would suggest that you
should not undertake any work unless the M. 4522/76
probable cost be advanced by the Muni-
cipality. ^{It is not likely that the Municipality}
will have much money in hand before
the middle of the month of July, it will be best
to stop all road works on the Municipal
account from the 1st April, until the necessary
advances be made.

I have &c.

Signed H. J. Knox

Hon. Secretary O. M. C.

(True Copy)

Signed J. L. L. Morant Captain R. E.
District Engineer

(True Copy)

Charles A. Hafford
Supt. Correspondence Branch
Office of Engineer R. W. Accounts

22/6/76

Chas H
22.6.76

District Engineer's Office
Pohacamund 6 March 1876
From
The District Engineer
Milgins
Of

The Honorary Secretary

O. Municipal Commission

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge with
thanks your letter N^o 246 of the 3rd Instant.

2. With reference to your para 3 I beg to
be allowed to invite your attention to the fact that
the repairs to the Municipal roads should be almost
entirely completed before the close of the South &
West Monsoon. Unless this is done they will not
only be in a bad state of repair during and at
the close of the season, but it will be impossible to
bring them up to the mark after the raining season
is over. The rains develop weak places and
show where repairs are needed, these if not at
once attended to become loose and necessitate
increased expenditure. The roads moreover
have to be rolled which can only be done
with

with advantage during the rains. Under these
circumstances I trust you will see the ad-
vantage of allowing the whole annual
sum allotted for road repairs being adjusted
some time before the close of the official year
to which they relate.

N. 4527/76.

I have &c.

(Sgd) J. L. L. Morant Capt. R. E.
District Engineer

(True Copy)

(Sgd) J. L. L. Morant Capt. R. E.
District Engineer

(True Copy)

Harriet St. John
Supt. Correspondance Branch
Office of Ex. Amineer P. W. Accounts

J. L. L. Morant

22/6/76

No. 511
From THE CONTROLLER,
PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS,

To The District Engineer

Nilgiri
Fort Saint George, 27th April 1876.

Sir,

As I notice that the number of
Miscellaneous Advances outstanding in your
Division on account of works undertaken for
Municipalities and private individuals is at
times considerable, I think it necessary to call
your attention to the Public Works Code Chapter
XX Section II Para 52 A, from which you will see
that when Municipalities require the Public Works
Department to execute work for them they should
first pay the amount of proposed expenditure.

The rule of course applies equally to private
individuals. Whenever it appears probable
that the funds advanced will be insufficient
for the completion of the work, notice should be
given to the individuals concerned and they
should

should be warned that work will have to be
suspended as soon as the advance is exhausted.

2. I should feel obliged by your
informing me what charge is made to
private individuals on account of Es-
tablishments.

I have &c
(Signed) L. Conway Gordon
Examiner P. M. Accounts

(True copy)

Charles H. Hutton
Supt. Correspondence Branch
Office of Examiner P. M. Accounts

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Mr. 4537/96.

SP
District Engineer's Office
Cotacambund 5th June 1876

N^o 174

From
The District Engineer
Nilgiris

To
The Examiner Works Accounts
Madras
Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter N^o 12. W. dated 15th ultimo and in reply beg to furnish the explanation you require.

2. There has always been a difficulty in obtaining money from the Cotacambund Municipality for their annual repairs. Their taxes are only realized between July and September and the repairs to the roads must be begun in April and completed

in November. I beg to append copies of 3 letters as per margin on this subject.

1. Letter N^o 246 dated 3rd March 1876 from the H. B. M. C. to the District Engineer.
2. Letter N^o 66 of 6th May 1876 from the Dist Engr. to the Honorary Secy.
3. Letter N^o 111 of 31st May from the Honorary Secy. H. B. M. C. to the District Engineer.

The inconvenience to the Government and Public if

if the road repairs were deferred or not done at all would be very great. and although I could hardly be held directly responsible for such a state of affairs it is very possible that I might be blamed.

3. With regard to the Hicks Memorial Fund, I was asked to erect a school house for the trustees on a sanctioned plan and estimate and was placed in possession of some \$2000. When this sum was exhausted the trustees of the school were to my certain knowledge raising fresh funds, which I was subsequently placed in possession of. In the interim it was quite out of the question to stop the work, disband the laborers &c. great subsequent delay or resuming work and additional expense would have been caused by such a proceeding.

4. I trust these explanations will be deemed satisfactory and that you will be so good as to allow me a certain amount of latitude under the peculiar circumstances of District as detailed in my letter No. 173 of 5th June 1876 I will carefully see that

your

your indulgence is not abused.

5. I beg to thank you for your advice on this matter and will not fail to give my particular attention to the rules on this subject.

I have &c

(Signed) J. L. Morant Captain R.E.
District Engineer

(True Copy)

Charles S. Supton
Supt. Correspondence Branch
Office of Examiner W. Accounts

26/6/76

26.6.76

M. 4507/76.

Ootacamund Municipal Commission Office
31st May 1896.

No. 11

From

The Honorary Secretary
O. M. C.

Captain J. E. A. Morant R.E.

District Engineer

Nilgiris

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst. regarding the proposed alterations to the drainage of the Ootacamund Municipality. In accordance with the rules of the Department and without detriment to the Public Service, I have the honor to make the following proposals, which I trust may have your concurrence and may be carried into effect with the approval of the Controller.

2. The present financial position of the Municipality and the arrangements which have been sanctioned at my instance are known to you. It is quite impossible for the Commissioners to

To

to provide in this year more than the
Ordinary road allotment. This sum will
suffice to adjust the charge of Rs. 2207.14.0
which ought to have been paid last year,
but which for want of funds has not yet
been paid. The bulk of the income of the
Municipality accrues in July and August,
and in those months the sum now due will
be discharged. At other times the receipts only
suffice for Establishment and current charges.
You will therefore see the necessity of my
arranging for all heavy payments in those
months.

3. I now propose that the repairs for
the year (1876-77) be carried out and that the
charge be adjusted in July and August 1877.
I can undertake if any financial arrange-
ments be adhered to that in those months
the sum due on account of this year and
the allotment for 1877-78 amounting together
to about Rs. 4,500 shall be handed over to you.

4. Considering that the road repairs must
otherwise cease to an extent which will inflict
great inconvenience on the public, and that
the Municipality is the only body

13
the financial policy lately adopted will place
matters on a proper footing by this time
next year, I venture to hope that your
Department will be able to help the
Municipality by putting off for a year a
rigid adherence to the rules laid down
by the Government.

I have P.
(Sgd) H. J. Knox

Honorary Secretary C.M.C.

(True Copy)

(Sgd) J. L. L. Morant Capt. R.C.

District Engineer

(True Copy)

Charles A. Safford
Supt. Correspondence Branch
Office of Examiner P.M. Accounts

25/6/76

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Handwritten signatures and initials are visible at the bottom of the page, including "Handwritten" and "Handwritten".

The first of these is the
 fact that the population
 of the world is increasing
 at a rapid rate. This is
 due to a number of factors,
 including improved medical
 care, increased food supply,
 and a general increase in
 living standards. The result
 is that the world is becoming
 more crowded, and this has
 led to a number of problems,
 including pollution, over-
 crowding, and a shortage of
 natural resources. These
 problems are all interconnected,
 and they all have the potential
 to cause serious damage to
 the environment and to human
 health. It is therefore essential
 that we take action to address
 these problems as soon as
 possible.

P. W. 1876 Sept.

From

The Examiner No. 4537

P.W. Accounts

To

The Secretary to Govt

P.W. Department

No. 81 W.

Dated 24 June 1876
Recd. 26 June 1876

E. J. V.

Forward copies of
certain correspondence, re-
lative to expenditure incurred
by Dr. Eng. ~~of~~ ⁱⁿ of
municipalities & private indi-
viduals now outstanding
in the P.W. miscellaneous
Advance Acct. for the infor-
mation of Govt.

No. 175

Recd. 7.7.76 P.W. 11.7.76
Ci. 29.6.76 P.W. 7.7.76
Despatch 27.6.76

P. W. Dept 29

Letter from the Examiner.

P.W. Accts: No. 81 W.

Dated June 24th, 1876

I would not under the
circumstances adhere to orders
rigidly to the letter -

It is convenient to accept
municipal work & private
work, to keep the skilled
labor occupied - There
is no harm in giving
municipalities credit

but I think when work
is done for private
individuals a rough
estimate of work (to be
adjusted when work is
complete) should be
made & the parties required
to pay in advance and

Major Genl R.E.
Secretary to Government,
P. W. Dept

They should be required to
acknowledge their acceptance of
the engagement by their
signature upon it
Not
JTB
27/7

no 1455

Public Works Department

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 11 July/76.

Read the following:—

From
The Examiner of
P. W. Accounts }

U.C. No. 81/Brd/24th June 19

Under the exceptional circumstances obtaining on the Reileghenic His Grace the Governor in Council does not consider that it would be expedient to make any ^{great} change in the present practice of doing work for Municipalities and private individuals which serves to keep the important skilled labor of the Public Works Department occupied. There is not much likelihood of loss so far as the Municipalities are concerned. In regard to work

Am. L. L. C. B.

done for private individuals a rough estimate of cost (to be adjusted when the work is complete) should be made, and the parties required to pay in advance, and acknowledge their acceptance of the engagement by their signature upon it.

AMM.

175-176

Exam. P. W. Acemint
D. E. Heilbrunn

Sept 21/176

176

453/11



Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Examiner of P. Works

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl.

G. O. 1 July 1876 No. 1753

Nos. 175-176

Expenditure incurred by
the S. Inf. Sulphureries
on account of Municipalities
& private individuals -

Passing orders on correspondence relative to the
_____ & outstanding in
the Public Works Miscellaneous
Advance Account

20-7-76

Sd/- 2/7/76