

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3336-97	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~
Dated	13 - 12	1876
		195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 313. Read the following letter from Major-General W. A. CROMMELIN, R.E., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Establishment—General,) to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 27th October 1876, No. 1,469 E—G:—

I AM directed to acknowledge your letter, No. 1,920, dated 28th July last, asking for the approval of the Government of India of certain proposed changes in the organization of the Public Works Department in the Madras Presidency.

2. In the first place, as to the appointment of a Secretary to the Government in the Public Works Department, instead of combining in one officer the duties of Chief Engineer and Public Works Secretary, I am directed to state that this subject in its general bearings has lately been under the consideration of the Government of India independently of your letter now acknowledged.

3. I am to point out that nothing is said of the pay, qualifications and experience which the proposed Secretary is intended to have, nor indeed whether the Secretary is to be an Engineer or not. In the discussions on the subject that arose in 1860, when the Provincial Heads of the Public Works Department were made Secretaries as well as Chief Engineers, this fact was evident, that a Secretary, who was a non-professional without experience in Public Works Department matters, or who was a professional officer of the department junior or inferior to the Chief Engineer, was an unnecessary and even detrimental barrier between the Local Government and its Chief Engineer. It appears to the Governor-General in Council that if His Excellency the Governor, or one of the Members of his Council, happened to take a special interest in Public Works affairs, and if either of these high officials had time to devote to the department, a non-professional officer or a junior Public Works Officer, as Secretary, might answer. But if the pressure of public affairs in other departments, or personal disposition, prevented these high officials from taking an active part in the detailed supervision of the department, it would be almost certain that the Secretary or the Examiner of Accounts in direct contact with the Government would become practically the head of the department, to the exclusion of the Chief Engineer. The advantage of the present system is, that it secures the officer who is *de jure*, being also *de facto* head of the department. I am directed to request that the Government of Madras will report its opinion further after considering this point of view.

4. It is not quite clear from your letter whether it is intended to have a staff of Engineers for Irrigation Works, separate from those employed on general Public Works.

5. I am further to take this opportunity of suggesting that, in view of the necessity for one uniform system of tariff and control for Railways in India, it would be as well to consider whether the Consulting Engineer for Guaranteed Railways should be under the direct orders of the Government of India.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th December 1876. No. 3,396.*

No. 314. ORDER THEREON, 13th December 1876, No. 3,396.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 24.

ORDERED that the following letter be
sent to the Government of India.

(Here enter No. 3,397, dated 13th December 1876.)

(True Extract.)

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE, 13th December 1876.

No. 315.

No. 3,397.

FROM

MAJOR-GENERAL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,
*Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department,*

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Public Works Department.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 25.

SIR,—The causes which have led the
Madras Government to desire the separation
of Chief Engineer and Secretary are

that the Secretariat duties, if done by the Chief Engineer, prevent the Chief Engineer from giving that personal attention to important works which it is desirable he should. Thus the Government must be to a great extent deprived of the advantage, of the experience, and ability of the highest officer for personal supervision and inspection of the large and important works on which difficult questions arise, or the Secretariat duties must be neglected, or left to subordinates.

2. The Madras Government consider that the duties of the Chief Engineer are to advise the Government on professional matters of importance, to examine personally occasionally the progress of the larger works, especially where failures have occurred, or alteration and modifications of design, or in mode of execution, are suggested.

3. The lengthened tours required for such duties in the Madras Presidency are quite irreconcilable with the discharge of the duties of Secretary, which should have the continuous attention of the officer in charge, and the result of combining the two offices is that the Government, if the Chief Engineer takes the prolonged tours of inspection which are most desirable, is left without a Secretary, or that, if the Secretary remains with the Government, they lose the advantage of the Chief Engineer's personal examination of works and intimate acquaintance with the merits of his subordinate officers.

4. The general conditions of the Presidency are such that large works are separated by great distances and important questions on which the best attainable engineering advice is needed arise within the year on the west coast in Malabar, in Madura, South Arcot, Nellore, Vizagapatam and Ganjam, in all of which the advice of the Chief Engineer, after personal inspection, would be most valuable, far more so than an opinion formed only on the inspection of designs and the consideration of reports.

5. The Secretariat duties require a continuous, careful, and systematic examination of the papers sent up for the decision of Government, and an accurate collection

and noting of all previous orders or proceedings thereon. The Secretary has further to watch vigilantly over the prompt issue of all orders passed by the Government and to see that they are acted upon without any unnecessary delay.

6. The Secretary should be a recording, and, to some extent, a controlling officer. The Chief Engineer is especially the professional adviser of the Government on whom they can rely in the not uncommon case of difference of opinion on professional points amongst local officers, and he has also in his hands the discipline and regulation of a large staff of officers of various grades. For the discharge of these different duties, the Madras Government is decidedly of opinion that two officers are necessary. In the division of work devolving on the Members of Government, it has been usual that one Member of the Council should be especially in charge of the Public Works business; but it is evident that this arrangement cannot to any great extent affect the qualifications required in the officer charged with the Secretariat duties of the Public Works Department. To make the efficiency of the department dependent on the greater or less personal attention which the Governor or some Member of Council may be able from circumstances to give, would simply result in certain failure whenever any great pressure of other business or in other departments arose. It has never been contemplated that the Secretary should be allowed to become a barrier of any sort between the Council and the Chief Engineer. He would only be a channel of communication between the Government and the Chief Engineer, but it is intended and is essential that the Government shall at all times have the full advantage of free personal communication with the Chief Engineer.

7. The Government of Madras consider that the office and duties of Chief Engineer should remain as at present; that as such he would be present at all Council meetings, when Public Works Department questions may be under discussion, as the confidential adviser on all matters connected with his profession, for his skill, experience, and ability in which he would be selected.

8. That the duties of the Secretariat of the department would be well and properly discharged by a professional officer of junior rank to the Chief Engineer, and whose experience gained in the discharge of Secretariat duties would probably be afterwards valuable to him and to the public service.

9. The Governor in Council is very desirous that this question, materially affecting the organization of the Public Works Department in the Presidency, may be decided, especially as the present Chief Engineer is about to retire, having by the death of General Orr succeeded to the Colonel's allowance, and several questions connected with the organization of the department are depending on that decision.

10. With respect to the inquiry in paragraph 4, under the present organization of Madras Public Works Department there is a separate Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and it is not intended to vary that arrangement. Nor is it intended to have a staff of Engineers for Irrigation only, distinct from those employed on General Public Works.

11. The circumstances of this Presidency are such that in nearly all districts both Irrigation and general works are from their distribution most satisfactorily combined in the same charge, although it may happen in some few instances that the magnitude and importance of the Irrigation works may for a time occupy the whole attention of an officer.

12. With respect to the suggestion in paragraph 5 that, "in view of the necessity for one uniform system of tariffs and control for Railways in India, the Consulting Engineer of Guaranteed Railways should be under the direct orders of the Government of India," the Governor in Council is of opinion that no advantage would result therefrom.

An uniform system of tariffs and of control may be equally well enforced under the present arrangement when decided upon and ordered; on the other hand a diminution of local interest, energy, and co-operation, so important to the developing of the railway traffic and the consequent reduction of the general liability thrown on the State, would be the certain consequence of severing the authority over the Consulting Engineer's Department from the Local Government of the Presidency and removing the control to so great a distance.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Major-General, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

24/2

157. 16/12

7

SIR,—The causes which have led the Madras Government to desire the separation of Chief Engineer and Secretary are that the Secretariat duties if done by the Chief Engineer prevent the Chief Engineer from giving that personal attention to important works which it is desirable he should. ~~That the Secretariat duties are such that either they must be neglected, or~~ *Thus:* the Government be to a great extent deprived of the advantage, of the experience, and ability of the highest officer for personal supervision and inspection of the large and important works on which difficult questions arise. ~~or left to subordinates~~

consider 2. ~~It appears to the Madras Government~~ that the duties of the Chief Engineer are to advise the Government on professional matters of importance, to examine personally occasionally the progress of the larger works, especially when failures have occurred, or alteration and modifications of design, or in mode of execution, are suggested. *re*

3. The lengthened tours required for such duties in the Madras Presidency are quite irreconcilable with the discharge of the duties of Secretary, which should have the continuous attention of the officer in charge, and the result of combining the two offices is that the Government, if the Chief Engineer takes the prolonged tours of inspection which are most desirable, is left without a Secretary, or that if the Secretary remains with the Government they lose the advantage of the Chief Engineer's personal examination of works and intimate acquaintance with the merits of his subordinate officers.

4. The general conditions of the Presidency are such that large works are separated by great distances and important questions on which the best attainable engineering advice is needed arise within the year on the west coast in Malabar ~~and Canara~~, in Madura, South Arcot, Nellore, Vizagapatam and Ganjam, in all of which the advice of the Chief Engineer, after personal inspection, would, be most valuable, far more so than an opinion formed on the inspection, the designs and the consideration of reports only. *only*

(7)

as such he would be present at all Council meetings, when Public Works Department questions may be under discussion, as the confidential adviser on matters common with his profession, for his skill, experience, and ability in which he would be selected.

Connected all

11. That the duties of the Secretariat of the department would be well and properly discharged by a professional officer of junior rank to the Chief Engineer, and whose experience gained in the discharge of Secretariat duties would probably be afterwards valuable to him and to the public service.

12. The Governor in Council is very desirous that this question, materially affecting the organization of the Public Works Department in the Presidency, may be decided, especially as the present Chief Engineer is about to retire, having by the death of General Orr succeeded to the Colonel's allowance, and several questions common with the organization of the department, ~~very much~~ depending on that decision.

connected being, are

13. With respect to the inquiry in paragraph 4, under the present organization of Madras Public Works Department there is a separate Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and it is not intended to vary that arrangement. Nor is it intended to have a staff of Engineer for Irrigation only, ~~separate~~ from those employed on General Public Works.

distinct

14. The circumstances of this Presidency are such that in all Districts both Irrigation and general works, from their distribution most satisfactorily combined in the same charge.

ready

15. With respect to the suggestion in paragraph 5 that "in view of the necessity for one uniform system of tariffs and control for Railway in India, the Consulting Engineer of Guaranteed Railways should be under the direct orders of the Government of India," the Governor in Council is of opinion that no advantage would result

although it may happen in some few instances that the magnitude & importance of the irrigation works may in a time require the & the attention of an officer

Therefrom -

*under the present
arrangement*

*a diminution
consequent reduction
consequent reduction*

An uniform system of tariffs and of control
may be equally well enforced when decided
upon and ordered; on the other hand, ~~the~~
~~cannot but think that~~ local interest,
energy, and co-operation, so important to
the developing of the Railway traffic and
the ~~diminution~~ of the general liability *certain*
thrown on the State, would be the conse-
quence of severing the authority over the
Consulting Engineer's Department from
the Local Government of the Presidency.
*and removing the control to
So great a distance —*

Jan 10 1892

Sent 15/12/76

Public Works Dept ¹⁵

Read the following:-

Letter from the Government of India,
Public Works Dept. No 1159 E.G. dated 27 October 1876.

For Orders

Linnaeus Papkenitz
Secretary to Government

[Faint handwritten notes at the top of the left page]

29/11

No 3396 *Ord Extra*
 Proceedings of the Madras Govt
 Under date 13th Dec/76

Read the following
 From the Govt of India - L.H.S. No. 1464 of 27 Dec/76
 To the G. of India - No 3397 of 13 Dec/76
 Sir. The Council which have led

Govt. 12/12

[Signature]

MR 12/12

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten notes in the bottom left of the right page]

The Council which have led
 the Madras Government to desire
 the separation of Chief Engineer
 and Secretary are that the se-
 cretariat duties if done by the
 Chief Engineer prevent the
 Chief Engineer from giving
 that personal attention to im-
 portant works which it is
 desirable he should. That
 the secretariat duties are such
 that either they must be ne-
 glected or the Government be
 to a great extent deprived of
 the advantage of the experi-
 ence and ability of the highest
 officer for personal supervision

and inspection of the large
and important works on which
difficult questions arise -

It appears to the Madras
Government that the duties
of the Chief Engineer are to
advise the Government on
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tance; to examine personally
occasionally the progress of
the larger works especially
when failures have occurred
or alteration and modification
of design or in mode of ex-
ecution are suggested -

The lengthened tours required
for such duties in the Madras
Presidency are quite irreconcil-
able with the discharge of
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and the result of combining the
two offices is that the Government
if the C. Eng. takes the prolonged
tours of inspection which are most
desirable is left without a Sec-
retary. or that if the Secretary re-
mains with the Govt. they lose
the advantage of the C. Engineer's
personal examination of works
and intimate acquaintance
with the merits of his subor-
dinate officers -

Continuous

Continuous attention of the
officers in charge of the
The general condition of
the Presidency is such
that important works are
necessarily unduly spread
over a wide area and
important questions arise
which the best attainable
engineering advice is de-
cided within the year
on the West Coast of Malabar
and Canara in Madras
South Arcot Nellore Vizag
Patnam & Ganjam in all
of which the opinions of
the Chief Engineer after
personal inspection would
be most valuable for the
Government.

So that any opinion formed
on paper information is
the inspection of designs
and the consideration of
reports only.

The Secretariat duties
require a continuous care
for a systematic examina-
tion of the papers sent
up for the decision of

Government and an accu-
rate collection & listing of
all previous orders thereon,
& prompt issuing of the decision or order thereon
with a watching eye to see
that they are not unreason-
ably delayed in the carrying
out.

The Secretary should be
a recording, and to some
extent, a controlling officer.
The Chief Engineer is espe-
cially the professional advi-
ser of the Government. Their opinion they can rely
on in the not uncommon

Case

In the division of work
devolving on the members
of Govt. it has been usual
that one member of the
Council should be specially
in charge of the Public
works business, but it is
evident that this arrange-
ment cannot to any great
extent affect the qualifica-
tions required in the officer
charged with the Secretariat
duties of the Public Works
Department.

As regards the
selection of the Chief Engineer
this officer

230
Case of difference of opinion
on professional points, a-
mongst local officers, and
has in his hands the
discipline and regulations
of a large staff of officers of
various grades.

For the discharge of these
different duties, the Madras
Government is decidedly of
opinion after years of expe-
rience of the different sys-
tems that 2 officers are suffi-

cient. To so arrange the
duties and select the officers
to make
that the efficiency of the de-

partment should depend on
the greater or less personal
attention which the Governor
or some members of Council

may

may be able from circumstances

stances to give would be in

likely result in certain failure,

whenever any great pressure

of other business or in other

departments arose. That

the Secretary should be al-

lowed to become a barrier

of any sort between the

Council and the Chief En-

gineer would be subversive

of all proper conduct of

business

The Government of Madras

considers that the office and

duties of C Engineer should

remain as at present. That

as such he would be pre-

sent at all Council meetings

when PWD questions may

be under discussion and

the confidential adviser

It has not been

contemplated that the

Secretary should be allowed

to become a barrier of

any sort between the Coun-

cil and the Chief Engineer.

He would only be a channel

of communications between

the Govt & the C Engineer and

it is intended that on all

the most important ques-

tions that may arise, the

Govt shall have the advan-

tage of personal communica-

tions with the Chief Engi-

neer.

256
in another connection with
his professional skill
experience and ability in
which he would be select-
ed. It is not to be
that the duties of the Secre-
tary of the Department of
the Department would be
well & properly discharged
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perience gained in the
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wards valuable to him &
to the public service.

The Government in Council
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the organization of the PWD

in the Presidency may be decided, especially as the present Chief Engineer is about to retire, having by the death of General Cunningham succeeded to the Colonel's allowance, and several questions connected with the organization of the department very much depending on the decision.

With respect to the suggestion in para 4, that the present organization of Madras P.W.D. (is to have) a Chief Engineer for irrigation, and it is not intended to vary that arrangement, or the arrangements by which according to circumstances of districts

on

But it is not intended to have a Chief Engineer for irrigation in the Madras P.W.D. as the present arrangement is sufficient for the purpose.

This arrangement is necessary in the Presidency where in many districts the works of both irrigation and construction can find their distribution, be combined in the same charge, while in the Deltaic districts it is necessary to have the larger works under special officers.

But in the case of the irrigation works, the present arrangement is sufficient for the purpose.

or raised, the services of a local officer, whether wholly devoted to irrigation or matters connected therewith, or to the general charge of irrigation and other public works.

With respect to the suggestion in paragraph 5, that "in view of the necessity for one uniform system of tariffs, and control for railways in India the Committee for the Government of India should be under the direct orders of the Government of India" the Governor in Council is of opinion that no advantage would result - A uniform

uniform system of Tariffs
& of Control nearly equally
well enforced when de-
laid upon and ordered as
want of local interest energy
& cooperation so important
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railway traffic and the
diminution of the general
liability thrown on the
State would be the con-
sequence of severing the
control over the Civil
Engineering Department
from the local Government
of the Presidency.

on the other hand we
cannot but think that

Sept 20-12-76

All communications
should be addressed to
the Secretary.

No. 1469 Lt.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Establishment
General.

To
The Secretary to the Government of Madras
Public Works Department

Simla 27 October 1876-

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge your
letter No. 1920 dated 28 July last, asking for the
approval of the Government of India of certain
proposed changes in the organization of the
Public Works Department in the Madras Presidency.
In the first place, as to the appointment
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I am directed to state that this subject in its
general bearings has lately been under the
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13
31
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control for Railways in India, it would be
as well to consider whether the Consulting
Engineer for Guaranteed Railways should
be under the direct orders of the Govern-
ment of India:-

W
S
1944

I have the honor to be
Sir,

From
The Govt of India

Dated 27th October 1944

Your most Obedt servant

1469 b/f

M. M. M. Major Genl. R. C.
Officiating Secretary to the Govt of India

1469

No 28-7-76 No 1919 & 1920

No 3396 of 13 Dec 46

Ordered that the following
letter be sent to the
Govt of India.

RE No 3397 of 13 Dec 46

Forwards remarks
with suggestions on the
proposed changes in the
organization of the P.W. Dept.
the Madras Presidency

14313/315

Not sent to Govt 15/12/46
Cm 3-11-76

7-3111-2
241

7944

Govt. of 1876

PUBLIC WORKS

To *The Secy to Govt*

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 18th Dec 1876, No. 3396
3397

Dec. 313/15

Re-organisation of the
P.W. Dept.

Passing order on letter
from the Govt of India
requesting information
in connection with the
proposed ———

Submitting information
about the proposed
re-organisation of the
P.W. Dept of the Madras
Presidency.

20/12/76