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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

464 (W)

Press
Mis

Dated

20-7-

1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

20th July 1877, No. 464 W.

General.

Establishment.

Read the following paper:—

No. 295. From Captain L. CONWAY-GORDON, R.E., Examiner of Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, General Branch, dated Fort St. George, 21st May 1877, No. 23 W.

I HAVE the honor respectfully to suggest to Government that some early decision be arrived at as to the status of the Local Fund Sub-Overseers, or as it is now called the Lower Subordinate Establishment.

2. In G.O., No. 2,619, dated 13th September 1875, the first intimation was given to this office that the amalgamation of the Local Fund Petty Establishment with the General Public Works Department was or had been under discussion. In G.O., No. 3,094, dated 1st November 1875, not two months later, the transfer is alluded to as an accomplished fact although from G.O., No. 3,244, dated 13th November 1875, it is evident that all the more important questions regarding the conditions on which this establishment was to be transferred were still under consideration.

3. In November 1875 I ventured to point out to Government the extremely unsatisfactory state in which every question in connection with the Lower Subordinate Establishment had even then reached, and suggested an alteration of the existing law to legalize the proceedings. Government in reply requested me in G.O., No. 3,427, of the 2nd December, to await the result of the action taken in (*sic*) G.O. No. 3,094 of the 1st November 1875, and in another order passed on the same date it was stated that it was intended of course to submit for the formal sanction of the Government of India whatever conclusions as to the constitution of a Lower Subordinate Public Works Establishment might be arrived at.

4. In accordance with the orders of Government, I have since awaited the result; I have in fact awaited nearly a year and a half, but to the present time I have received no further orders on the subject. I have now the honor to inquire whether any conclusions as to the constitution of this Lower Subordinate Establishment have as yet been arrived at, and if so, I trust I may be favored with an expression of the views of Government on the subject.

5. My object in thus pressing for early orders on this question is simply to enable this office to carry on its current duties in a proper manner. While Government are deciding, business has to be carried on, men have to be paid, and others wish to retire. If business is not to be brought to a stand-still, an Audit Office must daily come to some decision one way or the other on all such points submitted to it, when definite orders are not passed by Government. In coming to such decisions, sometimes without any information at all, but at the best with but the barest intimation as to what are the wishes of Government in the matter, it is of course impossible to avoid the risk of deciding cases in a way which may eventually turn out to be directly opposed to the conclusions the Government may subsequently adopt. There

is thus undoubtedly at present not only a risk of error but also of inconsistency in dealing with such cases, but this risk and inconsistency appear almost necessarily involved when changes in the department are hastily made, without every question connected with the change having been previously carefully gone into and finally decided upon.

6. I have been induced to trouble Government again on the subject, as the pension section of this office have submitted to me for decision certain questions relating to an application for pension from a late Local Fund Sub-Overseer. These questions I am at present unable safely to decide, and this is a position in which no Financial Officer of Government should be left an hour longer than is absolutely necessary.

No. 296.

ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1877, No. 464 W.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council is not at present in a position to settle the constitution of the Lower Subordinate Establishment of the Public Works Department. The Examiner should submit for orders any individual cases in which he requires instructions.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Financial Department.

Note with reference to Memorandum by Secretary, Public Works Dept., referred to Financial Department.

The position appears to be as follows:-

The Local Fund Petty Establishment used to be appointed by the Presidents of the Local Fund Boards who also furnished or dismissed, while as a rule it worked under the P.W. Dept.

This was found inconvenient.

Local Boards used to pay for the Petty Establishment in addition to a rateable charge for the regular Public Works establishment.

This the Local Boards considered exorbitant.

Both

It is evident from this note that the Sub. Estab. is altogether under the P.W.D.

Asst. Commr says that the Govt. is not in a position to settle its constitution finally. The Examr. must be informed

Both difficulties were
summarily dealt with
in G.O. N.W.D. dated 20
October 1874 N. 2991A in
which it was directed
that the charge for es-
tablishment against
Local Funds should
be 25 per cent on outlay
on works and that as
a necessary sequel the
existing Local Fund Est-
ablishment should
be amalgamated with
the Regular P.W. Establi-
shment. This P.W. order
was adopted in G.O. dated
8 January 1875 N. 24. S.D.
but Lord Hobart was
afraid that it would
prejudice the discussion
the question of organizing
separate Public Works
Establishments for Local
Funds

Accordingly in Feb.
he had letters from it
for orders any individual
cases in S.D.
Expiring instructions

17/11
1875

Left

Funds and G.O. dated 21st
January 1875 N. 98 was
issued preserving the finan-
cial effect of the order
in the P.W. Dept., but di-
recting that no formal
amalgamation should
take place.

A new anomaly now
arose. Presidents of Local
Boards retained the power
of making appointments,
but as the charge for Pub-
lic Works Establishments was
a fixed per centage the
cost of new appointments
made by Presidents really
fell upon Provincial
Funds. It was open to
the Government in the
Financial Dept. to over-
-rule a detailed check
by refusing sanction
to such appointments
unless a case of clear
necessity.

necessity was made out,
 but in G.O. F.D. recorded
 with G.O. P.W.D. dated
 13 Sept. 1875 No. 2619,
 it is remarked that
 the Local Fund Petty Es-
 tablishments are prac-
 tically part of the Public
 Works Establishment, and
 it indicates that the
 P.W. Dept. is the natural
 Dept. in which to decide
 whether any increase
 is necessary to the Executive
 agency.

Since that time the
 petty Establishments
 have been looked upon
 as part of the regular
 P.W. Establishments and
 Presidents of Local Fund
 Boards have not inter-
 fered in appointments.

30-27
 10-77

[Faint handwritten notes]

\$14.00

Transferred to P.W. with reference
 to their debit No. 1621. 2nd Aug 1877
 \$16.77

17/7/77 W. J. F. J.
 By: Under Secretary
 in charge

[Handwritten initials]

* G.O. P.W.D. of 13 Sept 1875
 * G.O. 27 19 1877 No. 354

G.O. 20th July 1877 No. 464
 Wm. L. J. H. J.
 President of the
 Local Fund Board
 in charge

From the Examiner of P. & A. Accounts, No. 234,
 dated 31st May 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

After Wm. L. F. J.
 J. J. J. J. J.
 I am not sure that
 the transfer of the L. F.
 Boards to the P.W.D. has
 been accepted finally.
 Mr. Throck will know
 how the case stands.

As proposed
 L. F. J.
 30/6

R. J.

The order in the
 Financial Department
 recorded with P. & A. G. O.
 2619, dated 13th September
 1875 assumed that
 certain action taken
 in Proceedings of that
 Department No. 98, dated
 21st January 1875 had
 the practical effect
 of making the Local
 Fund Petty Establish-
 ment a part
 of the Public Works
 Establishment. The
 Public

Public Works Department
accordingly assumed
thenceforward the con-
trol of these Estab-
lishments. In order to
place the Establish-
ments on a proper
footing District En-
gineers were instructed
in G. O. No. 3094 dated 1st
November 1875 to report
their numbers, salaries
and allowances and to
suggest necessary modi-
fications of existing
arrangements.

The information thus
called for was submitted
in due course. but in
the present transition
state of the Depart-
ment (its future consti-
tution being still
undecided)

undecided) it was
felt that the infor-
mation obtained could
not be made use of
the constitution of the
lower subordinate Es-
tablishment is merely
one of the questions con-
nected with the re-
organization of the
whole Department;
and, as appears to the
undersigned, cannot
be decided independent
of the other considerations
involved. Taking up
the matter and deciding
it off hand as the Ex-
aminer would appear
to suggest, is a course
of procedure which
the

FOR ORDERS.

the undersigned cannot recommend the Government to adopt. Moreover this Government, even if they had the wish, have not the power to decide authoritatively on some of the questions raised by the Examiner. The difficulty was felt and acknowledged in L. O. No. 3426 dated 2nd December 1875.

This is not the first reference that the Examiner has made. On a former occasion he was told to be so good as to await the result of the action taken in L. O. 3094 dated 1st November 1875. The Government are

x L. O. 3427 dated 2nd December 1875

are not apparently in a better position now than they were then to decide the matter definitely. As already pointed out the question of the Local Fund Establishment is involved in the larger question of the reorganization of the Department and until the details of the latter come to be taken up, no isolated action in connection with the former seems feasible.

EA King fall R.E.
Secretary to Government
P. B. D.

No 1821.
 Referred to the
 Financial Department.
 By Order
 E. A. Tamm Coll. R. C.
 Secy. of Treas.
 P. H. D.
 L. S. St. George
 2^d July 1877

Ca 236.77 R27

5703.

List of Papers circulated with
 Current No 5703.

1877

1878

1879

1880

2 25 2nd 1877

4464 of 77

Please turn over

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Financial (1877) DEPARTMENT.

From

The Secretary to Govt.
R.W. D.

No. 1821.

Dated

2nd July 1877.

Received

1 list of papers
sent on 2nd July
1 Revenue letter
21st.

No. 3997

Referring papers
regarding Local
Fund sub overseers
for remarks.

GO 20th July 77, 2022 295

C/185103.

List of Papers circulated with
Current No 5703.

- 1 Statement showing the present and proposed strength of Local fund Overseers.
2. Ditto Ditto Ditto.
3. Arnold's list of papers.
4. Statement showing the numbers, salaries and allowances of all lower subordinates lately transferred to the permanent Public Works establishment in Sangam, Vizagapatam, Godavari, Kistna, Nellore, Cuddapah, Nurnool, Bellary, Presidency, Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Malabar, Nilgherries, Wynad, Canara, Madras, & Tinnevely.

5. Current Nos 6725, of 74 - 2758 of 76 - 3503.

2126. "
1673. "
3185. "
2365. "
4803. "
2524. "
1025. "
4464 of 77

Please turn over

Extract of P.W. Code 8th Nov 1866.

G.O. 27th February 1868. No 663.

" 14th April 1869. No 1224.

" 29th July " 2072. 2494.

" 12th May 1871. " 1299.

" 4th Sept 1871. " 2215.

" 12th Augt. 1872. " 1911.

" 11th March 1874. " 128.

" 24th April " " 202.

" 20th May " " 119.

" 13th July " " 107.

" 16th Sept " " 2634.

" 2^d October " " 2779.

" 20th " " " 2991.

" 28th January 1875. " 201.

" 4th February " " 25.

" 23rd " " " 193.

" 7th April " " 925.

" 13th Sept " " 2619.

" 2^d Decr " " 3426.

" 14th Novr " " 3094.

" 14th January 1876. " 3244.

Circular No 162. 25th Jan 1876.

G.O. 5th June 1876. No 1403.

" 5th July " " 1697.

FROM L. CONWAY-GORDON,
EXAMINER, P.W. ACCOUNTS.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
GENERAL BRANCH.

FORT ST. GEORGE, 21ST. MAY 1877.

NO. 23 W.

SIR,

I HAVE THE HONOR RESPECTFULLY TO SUGGEST TO GOVERNMENT THAT SOME EARLY DECISION BE ARRIVED AT AS TO THE STATUS OF THE LOCAL FUND SUB-OVERSEERS, OR AS IT IS NOW CALLED THE LOWER SUBORDINATE ESTABLISHMENT.

2. IN G.O. NO. 2619, DATED SEPTEMBER 13TH. 1875, THE FIRST INTIMATION WAS GIVEN TO THIS OFFICE THAT THE ANALOGATION OF THE LOCAL FUND PETTY ESTABLISHMENT WITH THE GENERAL P.W. DEPARTMENT WAS OR HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION. IN G.O. NO. 3094, DATED NOVEMBER 1ST. 1875 NOT TWO MONTHS LATER THE TRANSFER IS ALLUDED TO AS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT. ALTHOUGH FROM G.O. NO. 3244, DATED 13TH. NOVEMBER 1875, IT IS EVIDENT THAT ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CONDITIONS ON WHICH THIS ESTABLISHMENT WAS TO BE TRANSFERRED WERE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

3. IN NOVEMBER 1875 I VENTURED TO POINT OUT TO GOVERNMENT THE EXTREMELY UNSATISFACTORY STATE IN WHICH EVERY

G.O. 20th July 77 No 295

L. Jul 1897/77

QUESTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE LOWER SUBORDINATE ESTABLISHMENT HAD EVEN THEN REACHED, AND SUGGESTED AN ALTERATION OF THE EXISTING LAW TO LEGALIZE THE PROCEEDINGS. GOVERNMENT IN REPLY REQUESTED ME IN G.O.NO.3427 OF THE 2ND.DECEMBER, TO AWAIT THE RESULT OF THE ACTION TAKEN IN (SIC) G.O.NO.3094 OF THE 1ST.NOVEMBER 1875. AND IN ANOTHER ORDER PASSED ON THE SAME DATE, IT WAS STATED THAT IT WAS INTENDED OF COURSE TO SUBMIT FOR THE FORMAL SANCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WHATEVER CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF A LOWER SUBORDINATE P.W.ESTABLISHMENT MIGHT BE ARRIVED AT.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT I HAVE SINCE AWAITED THE RESULT, I HAVE IN FACT AWAITED NEARLY A YEAR AND A HALF, BUT TO THE PRESENT TIME, I HAVE RECEIVED NO FURTHER ORDERS ON THE SUBJECT. I HAVE NOW THE HONOR TO INQUIRE WHETHER ANY CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THIS LOWER SUBORDINATE ESTABLISHMENT HAVE AS YET BEEN ARRIVED AT; AND IF SO, I TRUST I MAY BE FAVORED WITH AN EXPRESSION OF THE VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT ON THE SUBJECT.

5. MY OBJECT IN THUS PRESSING FOR EARLY ORDERS ON THIS QUESTION, IS SIMPLY TO ENABLE THIS OFFICE TO CARRY ON ITS CURRENT DUTIES IN A PROPER MANNER. WHILE GOVERNMENT ARE DECIDING, BUSINESS HAS TO BE CARRIED ON. MEN HAVE TO BE PAID, AND OTHERS WISH TO RETIRE. IF BUSINESS IS NOT TO BE BROUGHT TO A STAND-STILL, AN AUDIT OFFICE MUST DAILY COME TO SOME DECISION ONE WAY, OR THE OTHER ON ALL SUCH POINTS SUBMITTED TO IT. WHEN DEFINITE ORDERS ARE NOT PASSED BY GOVERNMENT, IN COMING TO SUCH DECISIONS, SOMETIMES WITHOUT ANY INFORMATION AT ALL, BUT AT THE BEST WITH BUT THE BARREST INTIMATION AS TO

WHAT ARE THE WISHES OF GOVERNMENT IN THE MATTER. IT IS OF COURSE IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID THE RISK OF DECIDING CASES IN A WAY WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY TURN OUT TO BE DIRECTLY OPPOSED TO THE CONCLUSIONS THE GOVERNMENT MAY SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPT. THERE IS THUS UNDOUBTEDLY AT PRESENT NOT ONLY A RISK OF ERROR, BUT ALSO OF INCONSISTENCY. IN DEALING WITH SUCH CASES, BUT THIS RISK AND INCONSISTENCY APPEAR ALMOST NECESSARILY INVOLVED WHEN CHANGES IN THE DEPARTMENT ARE HASTILY MADE, WITHOUT EVERY QUESTION CONNECTED WITH THE CHANGE HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY CAREFULLY GONE INTO, AND FINALLY DECIDED UPON.

6. I HAVE BEEN INDUCED TO TROUBLE GOVERNMENT AGAIN ON THE SUBJECT AS THE PENSION SECTION OF THIS OFFICE HAVE SUBMITTED TO ME FOR DECISION CERTAIN QUESTIONS RELATING TO AN APPLICATION FOR PENSION FROM A LATE LOCAL FUND SUB-OVERSEER. THESE QUESTIONS I AM AT PRESENT UNABLE SAFELY TO DECIDE, AND THIS IS A POSITION IN WHICH NO FINANCIAL OFFICER OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE LEFT AN HOUR LONGER THAN IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

I HAVE THE HONOR TO BE

SIR,

YOUR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

Edmund Gordon

EXAMINER, P. W. ACCOUNTS.

D.W.D.

22/11/77

5103

NO.

FROM THE EXAMINER,

P. W. ACCOUNTS.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL BRANCH.

NO. 23W

DATED 21ST. MAY 1877.

REC'D.

SUGGESTS TO GOVERNMENT THAT
SOME EARLY DECISION BE ARRIVED AT
AS TO THE STATUS OF THE LOCAL FUND
SUB-VERGEERS, OR AS IT IS NOW
CALLED THE LOWER SUBORDINATE ESTAB-
LISHMENT.

22/11/77

27.6.77

No 461W

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the

20 July/77

Read the following:-

From the Examiner, P. W. Accounts (H. E. No 23W.d/21st May 1877)

His Grace the Gover-
nor in Council is not at
present in a position to set-
tle the constitution of the
lower Subordinate Esta-
-blishment of the Public
Works Department. The
Examiner should submit
for orders any individual
cases in which he re-
quires instructions.

22/7/77

20

The Examiner P. W. Accounts

The Financial Department

20.7.77

20/7/77

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Govt. of India
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 20 July 1877, No. 464 W

Nos. 295-296

Subordinate to
 of the P.W. Dept
 of the
 ordered
 over, and the
 to submit for orders
 individual cases in
 which he requires instructions.

Recd. in Ref.
 31-7-77