

(1) Number of pages 10

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>532 (W)</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	<i>17 2</i>	1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th February 1877. No. 532.*

Read the following :—

- No. 413. Memorandum by Chief Engineer, dated 7th February 1877, No. 271.
No. 413-A. From the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, dated 8th February 1877,
No. 409 W.

No. 414. ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1877, No. 532.

ACCOUNT, No. 16.

RECORDED.

2. It is observed that the District Engineer has been directed to submit a revised estimate for the sanction of Government.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,
Acting Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

FROM L. CONWAY-GORLON,

EXAMINER, P.W. ACCOUNTS.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

NO. 400. W.

FORT ST. GEORGE. 8TH. FEBY. 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT NO. 220 DATED JANUARY 23RD. 1877, OBSERVING THAT THE CHIEF ENGINEER'S MEMORANDUM NO. 1365 OF THE 12TH. SEPTEMBER WAS BASED ON AN OFFICE NOTE RECEIVED FROM THE EXAMINER, AND WITH REFERENCE THERETO TO RESPECTFULLY POINT OUT TO GOVERNMENT THAT AS A MATTER OF FACT, AS IS EVIDENT FROM THE COPY OF THE NOTE ITSELF GIVEN IN THE PROCEEDINGS, THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF ENGINEER WAS DIRECTLY OPPOSED TO THE SUGGESTIONS OF THE EXAMINER CONTAINED IN THE NOTE.

2. THE ADVICE GIVEN IN THE NOTE & THE PRUDENCE OF WHICH HAS BEEN SUFFICIENTLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE COURSE OF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS > WAS TO LET THE MATTER ALONE, AND TO TAKE NO ACTION IN THE SENSE OF CANCELLING THE GOVERNMENT

THE COPY GIVEN IN THE PROCEEDINGS IS NOT QUITE CORRECT; ON REFERENCE, I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT THE WORD APCH-DEACONAL FINDS NO PLACE IN THE ORIGINAL NOTE.

ORDER. AT THE TIME THAT NOTE WAS WRITTEN, THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE PAPERS SUBMITTED TO THE EXAMINER TO SHOW WHETHER THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HAD OR HAD NOT SUPPLIED THE FUNDS AS A PERMANENT ARRANGEMENT. THE EXAMINER THEREFORE COUNSELLED A COURSE SAFE IN EITHER CONTINGENCY; IF THE ARCHDEACON HAD DEFINITELY SUPPLIED THE FUNDS FROM ECCLESIASTICAL SOURCES THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER TO DO SO; IF, ON THE CONTRARY, THE ARCHDEACON HAD NOT THE POWER OF PERMANENTLY ACCEPTING THE CHARGE, THE DISTRICT ENGINEER WITH THE GOVERNMENT ORDER UN-CANCELLED, WOULD HAVE BEEN ENABLED TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE CHARGE AS A DEBIT TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

3. HAD THIS ADVICE BEEN FOLLOWED, HAD THE MATTER BEEN LEFT ALONE, THE WHOLE OF THE SUBSEQUENT CORRESPONDENCE THAT FOLLOWED WOULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. BUT THE CHIEF ENGINEER, BY THE ISSUE OF A MEMORANDUM WHICH PRACTICALLY CANCELLED THE GOVERNMENT ORDER, AND FORBID THE DISTRICT ENGINEER TO ADVANCE THE MONEY IN EITHER ALTERNATIVE, PROVIDED FOR BUT ONE CONTINGENCY, AND NECESSARILY PRODUCED EMBARRASSMENT, WHEN THE OTHER CONTINGENCY ACTUALLY OCCURRED.

4. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF RESPECTFULLY OBSERVING TO GOVERNMENT, THAT IN THIS CASE AND IN ALL OTHERS, I CANNOT HOLD MYSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION TAKEN BY OTHERS ON NOTES SUBMITTED BY THIS OFFICE, UNLESS I AM GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT ARE TO ISSUE, AND OF SATISFYING MYSELF THAT THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE IN ACCORD

WITH THE NOTE SUBMITTED, THAT THEY CO-ORDINATE WITH THE EXISTING FINANCIAL ORDERS, THAT THEY ARE PRACTICABLE UNDER THE PRESENT RATHER ELABORATE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS, AND WHAT IS NOT THE LEAST IMPORTANT, THAT THEY ARE CLOTHED IN SIMPLE AND CLEAR TECHNICAL LANGUAGE SO AS TO REDUCE THE CHANCES OF ERROR AND MISUNDERSTANDING TO A MINIMUM.

5. WHERE A CASE HAS ONCE BEEN REFERRED TO THE FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR SUGGESTIONS, IT IS, I THINK, USUAL TO GIVE THAT OFFICER AN OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING THE ORDERS THAT WILL ISSUE OR HAVE ISSUED ON THE CASE. WHERE THIS IS NOT DONE, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER OBVIOUSLY ENDS WITH THE NOTE ITSELF, AND DOES NOT EXTEND TO ACTION, WITH REGARD TO WHICH HE KNOWS NOTHING.

6. IT WAS ONLY LATE IN DECEMBER THAT I BECAME AWARE OF THE ACTION TAKEN, AND WHEN AWARE OF IT, REGARDING THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF ENGINEER AS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED TO GOVERNMENT BY THIS OFFICE, THE CASE WAS REFERRED TO GOVERNMENT, FOLLOWING THE ORDINARY COURSE PRESCRIBED WHEN THE VIEWS OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND THE EXAMINER ARE NOT IN EXACT ACCORD. FOR THE EXAMINER TO HAVE THEN ISSUED TO THE OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE STAFF ORDERS OPPOSED TO THE ORDERS ALREADY RECEIVED BY THEM FROM THEIR IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR, THE CHIEF ENGINEER, AND TO HAVE THUS EXPOSED THOSE OFFICERS TO A CROSS-FIRE OF CONTRARY

INSTRUCTIONS, APPEARS TO BE A COURSE SO LIABLE TO PRODUCE INCONVENIENCE AND FRICTION, THAT I FEEL ASSURED THAT GOVERNMENT, ON RECONSIDERATION, WILL CONCUR WITH ME IN THINKING THAT THE ORDINARY COURSE FOLLOWED OF REFERRING THE QUESTION TO GOVERNMENT WAS PROBABLY ON THE WHOLE, THE MOST ADVISABLE COURSE TO HAVE TAKEN UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

7. WITH REGARD TO PARA 3 OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT, I NOTICE THAT THE ORDERS { NO. 801 OF THE 21ST. MAY. 1859. OF GOVERNMENT REFERRED TO DEFINITELY PRESCRIBE THAT ALL CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED TO IN A LETTER IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT FOR REFERENCE. THE REMARKS OF GOVERNMENT MUST CONSEQUENTLY REFER SOLELY TO THE FACT OF PRINTED COPIES OF LETTERS HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED IN LIEU OF THE MANUSCRIPT ORIGINALS. ON THIS POINT PARA. 5 OF THE ORDER PRESCRIBING THAT CORRESPONDENCE WAS TO BE SENT UP IN ORIGINAL WAS READ WITH PARA. 10 REGARDING THE NECESSITY FOR SUBMITTING ALL DOCUMENTS IN CLEAR BOLD WRITING; AND THE CONCLUSION WAS ARRIVED AT, THAT IT WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR THE MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT TO REFER TO COPIES IN PRINT THAN TO BADLY WRITTEN ORIGINALS IN MANUSCRIPT. IN EVERY OTHER RESPECT, SAVE THAT OF CONSULTING THE CONVENIENCE OF GOVERNMENT AT THE COST OF THIS OFFICE, WERE THE ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT STRICTLY ADHERED TO; AND EVEN IN THIS RESPECT, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE COURSE ADOPTED BY THIS OFFICE IS IN ACCORD WITH THE SYSTEM AT PRESENT IN FORCE WITH THE BOARD

* THE COPIES WERE PRINTED WITH A TYPE-WRITER.

OF REVENUE.

7
SINCE THE ISSUE OF THE ORDERS REFERRED TO IN THE YEAR 1859, IT IS PERHAPS NEEDLESS FOR ME TO SAY, THAT THE MASS OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT HAS VERY MUCH INCREASED, THAT THE USE OF PRINTING GENERALLY HAS EXTENDED, AND THAT THE ADHERENCE TO THE STRICT LETTER OF THESE OLD INSTRUCTIONS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD GREATLY INCREASE THE LABORS OF GOVERNMENT.

8. I VENTURE ALSO TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENT TO THE MADRAS PUBLIC WORKS CODE CHAP. XV, SEC. 3, PARA 12.

THIS RUNS AS FOLLOWS.

'WHEN COPIES OF A CORRESPONDENCE ARE REQUIRED, THEY SHALL BE TRANSCRIBED CONSECUTIVELY ACCORDING TO THEIR DATES ON AS MANY SHEETS AS MAY BE NECESSARY, AND THE WHOLE FORWARDED AS ABOVE'.

THIS ALMOST EXACTLY DESCRIBES THE COURSE FOLLOWED BY THIS OFFICE, AND THE PUBLIC WORKS CODE MAY REASONABLY BE CONSIDERED AS THE PRIMARY GUIDE TO A PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE.

9. IN CONCLUSION I WOULD REMARK THAT THE SANCTION OF GOVERNMENT REQUIRED FOR THE EXCESS EXPENDITURE REFERRED TO IN THE LAST PARA OF MY FORMER LETTER DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONVEYED IN THE ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT PASSED ON THE CASE. I THEREFORE RESPECTFULLY SOLICIT THAT THIS POINT MAY NOW BE DISPOSED OF.

I HAVE THE HONOR TO BE
SIR,
YOUR MOST OBDT. SERV'T;

Stonway-Jordon

EXAMINER P. & T. ACCOUNTS.

27th Aug 1859. No. 801.
20 Aug 1873. = 119 or 120
25 Jan 1877. = 220
7 Feb. = CRH: 271.

N^o 271

(9)

Adverting to G.O. N^o 220

of 25th January, 1877, the District Engineer
will be so good as to repay the Archdeacon
at once; and to send in revised Estimate or
Bill for sanction.

18th J. M.

7th February
1877

Ch. Eng.

To

The District Engineer Presidency

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 17 Feb/77 (11)
Read the following:—

Memo by Chief Engineer - (H.E. No. 271 of 7th Feb/77)
The Dy. Commr. M. Accounts - (H.E. No. 409 of 8th Feb/77)

Recorded.

2. It is observed that the District Engineer has been directed to submit a revised estimate for the sanction of Government.

W.H.
15.2.77

H.P.W.A.
27.2.77

C/398
Sect. of {1877} Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To *the Ex^t of P. H. Accounts.*

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. *17th Feb.* 1877, No. *582*

Nos. *413-14*

Saint-George's Cathedral.
Presidency Letter from the
Inspector of Works re-
garding the admeasurement
of the cut by certain work
in the Cemetery attached
to —, recorded with
remarks.

Ch. W. P. P.