

(1) Number of pages 14 Pages
 (2) Date of repair 29/7/86
 (3) Initials of the Referencer lno

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P. W. D. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1537 (W)	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	26-3-1978	197.

Handwritten signature/initials

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1537
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

26th March 1878, No. 1,537 W.

General.
Account.

Read the following paper:—

No. 389. From Major ROSS THOMPSON, R.E., District Engineer, Presidency, to the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 21st March 1878, No. 7,226.

In their Order, No. 809 W, of 18th February 1878, the Government were pleased to record the following remark on the Examiner's "Statement of Objectionable Items for November 1877, Imperial:—

"Recorded with the remark that the number of works in the Presidency District, to the expenditure on which objection has been taken by the Account Office, is very large, and that the District Engineer should do his best to remove the irregularities as soon as possible."

2. I have the honor to request that you will submit the following figures to Government. They show the number of plans and estimates which have been prepared during the past three years in the District Engineer's Office, Presidency:—

Plans.										Number.
Years.										
1875-76	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	190
1876-77	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	260
1877-78, up to 20th March 1878	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	202
										652
Average Number per annum =										217½
Estimates.										Number.
Years.										
1875-76	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	483
1876-77	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	569
1877-78, up to 20th March 1878	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	598
										1,650
Average Number per annum =										550

3. Deducting Sundays and other authorized holidays from the total number of days in the year, 278 working days remain. These figures show that during the last three years up to the 20th of the current month plans have been turned out at the rate of .78, or nearly four-fifths of a plan per day; and the outturn of estimates has been at the rate of 1.9 or nearly two per day.

4. When it is remembered that the men who make the estimates and furnish the rough plans, from which the fair ones are copied, are also the men who carry out the work; when it is remembered how frequent and pressing are the calls on the Public Works Department of the Presidency District to carry out works "on emergency" "in anticipation of plans and estimates being prepared, &c.," and when remembered how miserably inadequate numerically is the staff of Executive Officers, subordinates, and office establishment to do all the work that is expected of them, it must, I most respectfully submit, cease to be a matter of wonder that the Objectionable Items List of the Examiner contains from month to month large numbers of items, which there has simply neither been the time nor the means of preventing from making their appearance therein.

5. So long as the Presidency District is kept upon a starvation allowance of officers, subordinates, and office establishment, so long must there be an unsatisfactory, wasteful, and ultimately expensive scramble to get through work. The office work and *real* work cannot go hand in hand; there can be no progress, no improvement, no credit to those who have to fight the uphill fight, and no satisfaction to Government.

No. 350.

ORDER THEREON, 26th March 1878, No. 1,537 W.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.

Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

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

Ed. A. F. Goodall.
Spars Copies

1537
-2-

GENERAL
ACCOUNTS

(Sect. of 1878) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER
PRESIDENCY.
C. S. A. S.

1st March 1878.

Dear Sir,

I am,

Yours,

G. O. No. 1809 W. of 15th Feb. 1878.

DIARIES

Nos. 1809-1810

The following is a list of the
Diaries of the District Engineer
for the period of 1877-78
and 1878-79.

No. 7226

Sir,

1537
27

The District Engineer
Presidency.

To,

The Chief Engineer, and
Secretary to Govt. D. W.

Sir,

In their order No. 809 W. of 15th February
1878, the Government were pleased to record
the following remark on the Examiner's
Statement of Objectionable Items for December
1877 - Imperial -

Received with the remark that the
number of works in the Presidency District,
to the expenditure on which objection has
been taken by the Account Office is very
large, and that the District Engineer
should do his best to remove the irregu-
larities as soon as possible.

2 I have the honor to request that
you will submit the following figures
to Government. They show the number
of plans and estimates which have
been prepared during the past three
years

Years in the District Engineer's Office
 Presidency.

Plans.

Years.	Number.
1855-1856	100
1856-1857	200
1857-1858 up to Dec. 31, 1858	<u>202</u> <u>102</u>
Average number per annum	<u>175</u>

Estimates.

Years.	Number.
1855-1856	100
1856-1857	169
1857-1858 up to Dec. 31, 1858	<u>298</u> <u>169</u>
Average number per annum	<u>175</u>

2. Detachments, including and other
 authorized holidays from the total
 number of days in the year 365 work-
 ing days remain. These figures show
 that during the last three years, up
 to the 31st of the current month, plans
 have been forwarded at the rate of

178, or nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of a plan per ¹⁸³³ day.
 And the out turn of estimates has been
 at the rate of 1.9 or nearly two per day.
 It — when it is remembered that the
 men who make the estimates, and furnish
 the rough plans from which the fair-
 ones are copied — are also the men who
 carry out the work. When it is remem-
 bered how frequent and pressing are
 the calls on the P.M.D. of the Presidency
 District to carry out works "on emergency"
 "in anticipation of plans and estimates
 being prepared &c." and when remem-
 bered how miserably inadequate nu-
 merically is the staff of Executive Officer,
 subordinates, and office establishment
 to do all the work that is expected
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 submit cease to be a matter of wonder
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 the Examiner, contains from month to
 month large numbers of items, which
 there has simply neither been the time
 nor the means of preventing from making their

their appearance therein

5—So long as the Presidency District is kept upon a starvation allowance of officers, subordinates, and office establishment, so long must there be an unsatisfactory ^{wasteful} and ultimately expensive scramble to get through work. The office work, and real work, cannot go hand in hand there, can be no progress, no improvement, no credit to those who have to fight the uphill fight, and no satisfaction to Government.

I have the honor to be

Yours most obedient servant

Wm. Thompson Major R.E.
District Engineer
Presidency

Fort St. George.
21st March 1878.

W.C.C.
17

537.
5.

General.

From,

The District Engineer
Presidency

No 7226.

Dated 21 March 1878.

18.2.78. 809 W.

Objectionable Items -

Submits report

on the - of the Presidency
District.

Ar 22/3 226.3

Genl Secy

No 1537 W Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the

26 March 1878

Read the following :-

From the District Engr

Presidency (H. E. No 7226 of 21 March 78)

Recorded.

27/3

15

D. E. Presidency
By Mr. Secy.

27/3-78

15

203.102

Bot. of (1878) ~~Orders~~
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

H. E. Pughman
J

G. O. 26 Mar 1879. No. 15376

Recd.

• Objectionable Stenous
• The remarks of the D. R.
Presidency on the Examination
Statement of — for Govt.
under Imperial, Records

Sub. in Regr.