

7. You are aware of the difficulties and expenses attending locomotion in the West Coast division, and that in order to be able to march at a moment's notice it is absolutely necessary to maintain (as I do) efficient "camp equipage;" it cannot, by any means, always be procured on short notice, and as a bullock-coach is assuredly *not* an equipage I would maintain for my own private pleasure, I trust you will see fit to authorize the Examiner to audit the amount claimed in my bill, which you inform me you have disallowed.

From Colonel ROSS THOMPSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, West Coast Division, to the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, dated Calicut, 25th July 1885, No. 401.

Adverting to your memorandum, No. 363 W.C., of 20th July 1885, and the concluding portion of paragraph 1 of your letter, No. 248 W.C., of 14th May 1885, I have the honor to request that you will particularly note that I do not by any means merely maintain my "camp equipage," viz. (bullock-coach and bullocks), for my personal conveyance on the march. As a matter of fact I ride or walk nearly all my marches, and my bullock-coach or "camp equipage" conveys a considerable portion of my camp equipment and some of my servants, as well as at times serving me as a shelter in the absence of tents or rest-houses during short halts. I do not use it as a purely personal conveyance, and consequently do not regard it as such. I cannot give any "further explanation" than that already given in my letter, No. 237, of 8th May 1885.

Office-note from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, dated 8th August 1885, No. 364.

The question raised by Colonel Ross Thompson, R.E., was finally decided in the Government of India letter printed with G.O., No. 98 W., dated 14th January 1884.

(Signed) D. C. GORDON,
Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

No. 459-E.

MEMORANDUM.

Referred to the Financial department for consideration and orders, with reference to proceedings in that department, dated 7th January 1884, No. 5, and to section 27, rule I, of the Civil Travelling Allowance Code.

2. In paragraph 2 of letter from the Government of India, No. 1865, dated 17th December 1883, it was ruled that "the upkeep of horses, palkies, &c., used only for conveyance of the officer on his marches, cannot be reckoned in 'actual expenses' keeping up camp equipage;" but Colonel Ross Thompson represents that his coach bullocks fulfil the conditions laid down in the Travelling Allowance Code, section 3 (m), as "apparatus for moving a camp."

Oodacamund,
15th August 1885.

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Financial department, with papers in original.

—dated 5th September 1885, No. 1245, Financial.

Excellency the Governor in Council observes that the contention of the Examiner of Public Works Accounts in his note of the 9th June 1883, No. 272, was

* G.O., No. 1749 W., dated 22nd June 1883.

† Letter No. 2587 (Financial), dated 16th November 1883.

‡ G.O., No. 5 (Financial), dated 7th January 1884.

that the cost of maintaining private conveyance of any sort should not* be included in the computation of "actual expenses." This view, characterized † by the local Government as "sound," was accepted ‡ by the Government of India as "correct." Whether, therefore, the

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From Colonel J. BEATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works department, dated Coimbatore, 29th July 1885, No. 316 E.W.

I have the honor to inform you that Colonel Ross Thompson, R.E., maintains a bullock-coach and bullocks, and during his halts at head-quarters he claims actual expenses at the rate of Rs. 35 per mensem, or Rs. 1-2-0 per diem, and this claim, it seems to me, is not admissible under the Travelling Allowance Code and the letter of the Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India printed with G.O. No. 98 W., of 14th January 1884.

2. Colonel Ross Thompson claims the actual expenses for the upkeep of bullock-coach and bullocks for reasons given in his letters, No. 237 of 8th May, No. 401 of 25th July 1885, herewith sent, and as he is not satisfied with my decision I have the honor to request the favor of your opinion in the matter.

3. My reason for disallowing the charge is, that I am of opinion that a coach and bullocks does not come within the term "camp equipage," which is defined to mean "apparatus for moving a camp."

ENCLOSURES.

From Colonel ROSS THOMPSON, R.E., Executive Engineer, West Coast Division, to Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, dated Calicut, 8th May 1885, No. 237.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 226 W.C., of 5th May 1885, on my letter No. 228, of 1st May 1885, I have the honor to point out that the coach and bullocks to which you object as not coming within the term "camp equipage" are, as a matter of fact, the "apparatus" with which, when not travelling by sea, I habitually move my camp.

2. So far as my own experience goes, they appear to me to have entirely fulfilled the conditions laid down in the code as "apparatus for moving a camp." I have habitually used the very "camp equipage" and "camp equipment" in the strict code meaning of both these terms.

3. You are doubtless aware that tents are useless during a great part of the year in the West Coast division, and officers of the Public Works department have consequently been required by Government to maintain tents. I have found, from more than five years' experience on the West Coast, that a pair of good bullocks and coach—proof against rain—form the most convenient and efficient possible "camp equipment" as well as "apparatus for moving" my "camp."

4. I have frequently, when travellers' bungalows have been full or district bungalows out of repair, camped very comfortably under trees in a bullock-coach.

5. With two horses, and the coach and pair of bullocks, I now maintain, I am perfectly prepared to march at any moment of the day or night and to remain out indefinitely.

6. Such being the facts of the case, I am at a loss to know why the bullocks and coach do not, in your opinion, come within the code meaning of the term "camp equipage."

Encl.

1245.