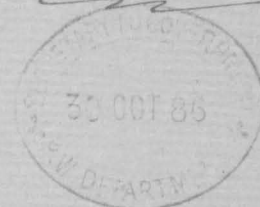


239/w 21.9.86.

P.W.C. No 8466

From, The Superintending Engineer,
IIIrd Circle.

To, The Chief Engineer
MADRAS.



Dated 29 } October 1886.
Received 1. 11. 86

Enclosures.

No. 2898 W. d/ 3rd Nov 1886

No. 1491

Inspection notes by
by Examiner of Sd.
Madras Division.

Forwarding copy of a
letter from the Ex. Eng.
on the —

With order

To
For the Deputy
Superintendent's remarks
with advertisement
to para 1 of the
S.E.'s letter

W

1/11/86

No. 2898 W. d/ 3rd Nov 1886

Communicated, with
extract paras 1 to 5. of
the Exce. Eng's letter to
the Exr. P.W. Accts for
information, & for
remarks with respect
to para 1 of the S.E.'s letter.

1/11/86

Exr. P.W. Accts. 11/11/86

Copy of letter No. 1314 dated 23rd
October/86 from J. B. Johnston Esq.
Executive Engineer Buddah Division
to the Supt. Engineer 3rd Circle.

With reference to notes of inspection
of my office by the Deputy Examiners
on the 27th and 28th August embodied
with G. O. No. 2391 & of 21st September 1886
and forwarded to me with your
endorsement No. 1345 of 7th instant,
I have the honor to make a few
remarks.

2. (Para 4 of the notes). I am not
aware of ever drawing cheques before
they are wanted. When a contractor
wants payment (by contractor I mean
a task man, petty contractor &c) a
measurement sheet of work done is
submitted by the Overseer to my
office. The calculations are checked
and the bill forms filled in by either
the Accountant or his assistant. On
receipt by me of these bills I draw
the necessary cheques. I am not allowed

to send these cheques through the Examiners. (Why I do not know) the Contractors very often request me to do so, but I have to keep them in the office till contractors call for them. Is this drawing cheques before they are wanted? If so why does the Examiner say in para 2 of his letter No 124 SEth of 11th October/06 (copy enclosed) that the cheques can be sent direct to Contractors under Code para 1049. They cannot be sent before they are drawn. But perhaps the Deputy Examiner means that cheques should not be drawn before the bills are receipted. If so, these contractors several of whom receive payment in small sums of about Rs 50 or less will have to hunt me up wherever I am, and the District is large or will have to wait for payment till I pass through their Salugs or the bills will have to be sent to them to be receipted and witnessed. Contractors cannot be made to receipt their bills and

get them witnessed before they receive the cheques and I will not send cheques to Contractors and trust to them for receipts. The simplest way is to send bills and cheques through the Examiners. The vouchers are not very much delayed and payments are prompt and works do not suffer. Under the present rules no petty repair works can be promptly undertaken because payment is rendered so expensive to the Contractor.

In the case of ^{the} cheques which were lost and which amounted to Rs 116 in the aggregate the contractor lived 22 miles distant and it would have cost him Rs 4 nearly simply to fetch them and sign the bills.

3. (Para 5). The loss of the cash and cheques was reported at once to your office.

4. (Para 8). The Deputy Examiner says that in the Accountant's audit of the cash book he (the accountant) has not generally found vouchers available,

"the head clerk's custom being to send "
"them on to the payee with the cheques "
"relating to them before the accountant "
"has compared them with the entries "
"in the cash book." This information
must have been obtained from the
Accountant alone and the wonder
is to me that it was accepted. The
cheques and bills in duplicate and
triplicate are sent by me direct to
the Accountant. Of these bills one
is an 'office copy' original bills and
cheques are given by the Accountant
to the Head clerk for entry in the
cash book and for despatch and
the Accountant writes against each
item the 'Head of Service'. Why could
not the Accountant check the Cash
book by means of the duplicates or
triplicates? If he had had a mind
to do his duty he could very easily
have done so. No one would or could
have prevented him from calling
for the cash book and originals even.
For neglect of duty he gave an excuse

which on the face of it was very absurd.
5. (Para 15). When proper store sheds
are provided a distribution may
be made between Famine and P.W. S
Tools. There is no difference in the
make of these tools so they easily
get mixed up in stores when every
available square foot is taken up.
6. (Para 19). I have in no way mis-
- interpreted Chief Engineer's Circular
No 2728 of 9th August/86. Having been
ordered to recognise the Accountant
as the head of the office, I have
always so recognized ^{him} and in the
present instance, even though G.O. No.
2254 B dated 8th September 1886 gave
me the option of choosing as manager
either the Accountant or Head clerk,
I still maintained the Accountant
as the Head. But when the Head has
not the slightest idea how to ma-
- nage an office he must either be
got rid of or be taught. I chose the
latter alternative. The present Account-
- tant on first arrival considered

himself the autocrat of the office
and from utter want of tact
made himself most obnoxious to
the other members. I was at last
obliged to issue orders to him not
to interfere with the correspondence
branch the work in which the Head
clerk was responsible for that if
he had copying to be done, he should
have it done through the Head clerk
and not call away a clerk from the
correspondence branch duty on his
own responsibility and without any
reference to the Head clerk. In short
he was told to mind his own business
and generally to overlook the whole
office. I much regret being obliged
to bring all this forward now for
there has been great improvement
lately but I object to the words
used by the Deputy Examiner for
they misrepresent my action in
striving to make the Accountant
learn how to manage an office
the Head clerk of which is so much

older than himself. If the Accountant
on any occasion had to arrange for
his own copying it was his own fault,
for it showed he was too proud to
ask the Head clerk to have it done.
He wished to order not to ask. He was
intent more in asserting his authority
than in working amicably.

Al Smith Major R.E.
Supt. Engineer 3^d Grade

29/10/86

Al Smith

Superintending Engineer's Office,

3RD CIRCLE

Bellary 29 October 1886.

No. 1491

From, Major A. C. Smith R.E.
THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
IIIRD CIRCLE.

To,

THE Chief Engineer
P. D. B.
Dindras

Sir,

In forwarding the accompanying copy of letter from the Executive Engineer Buddapah Division on the notes made by Mr. Rainier & Deputy Examiner on his inspection of the Buddapah Division Office on the 27th August/86, I have the honor to remark that before making any comments thereon or recommending any course of procedure with regard to the drawing of cheques I should like to know exactly what the Deputy Examiner means and what course he would wish to be pursued under the circumstances.

2. The other matters are I think completely explained by the Executive Engineer.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed^t servant
A. C. Smith Major R.E.
Suptg Engineer 3rd Circle

Enclosures.

1 Copy of
Exec Eng's
letter.

x G. O. No. 2391 N
of 21st Sept/86.

L:1
P.H. 8466/86