

P.W.C. No. 8753
accountants, and expressed my inability to submit at the time any proposal for reduction of clerical establishment.

4. In their orders just quoted the Madras Government, whilst giving a qualified approval to the proposal to introduce a class of apprentice accountants (afterwards changed to assistant accountants), took exception to most of my remarks and proposals, and desired me to submit complete and definite proposal statements for a reduced scale of establishment, both accounts — and clerical, to be still based, as regards accounts establishment, on a scale of pay considerably lower than that obtaining elsewhere.

5. In my office note No. 1867 dated 12th. July 1888, I replied to the objections taken by Government to my original remarks, and, whilst expressing my willingness to meet the views of Government as regards the lower scale of pay for accountants, and to frame a proposal based on such a reduced scale, if, on careful consideration it should still be held to be feasible (with due regard to efficiency) and in all respects free from objections, I have again urged (1) the reversion to an establishment of accountants divided, as elsewhere, into four grades (instead of five), (2) an equable reduction of salaries of the several grades, (3) the formation of a class of assistant accountants, and (4) the discontinuance of the practice of appointing temporary accountants. At the same time I expressed my absolute inability to submit, at present, any proposal for the numerical reduction of my establishment, pointing out that, if there is any excess of numbers, it is entirely due to the system, deliberately adopted, with the sanction at any rate of the Government of India, of employing a large number of

accountants on reduced pay. Finally I asked that my proposals, which I fully explained to the Accountant General, when he was here^a a few months ago, and of which he expressed entire approval, might be submitted for the orders of the Government of India.

6. In reply, in their order No. 2247 W. dated 23rd. July 1888, they simply drew my attention to para 7 of the Government of India letter already quoted, and pointed out that the Government of India require if possible a reduction, which I have already stated is in my opinion (for the present) impossible whether as regards accountants or as regards clerks; and they require me to frame definite proposals for giving effect to their orders, coupling this requirement with another, even more impossible of fulfilment, namely that I should confine my proposals to my own office.

7. I respectfully submit that it is quite useless to call upon me to propose reductions as to which I have already twice indicated, and now again state, that in my opinion they are absolutely impossible without completely sacrificing the efficiency of the accounts branch of the P. W. Department. If the Government of India require and order me to carry out specified reductions, they will of course be carried out; but I take it that if I make proposals, I am responsible for them, and for their consequences, and that nothing can justify me in making proposals as to which I entertain not the very slightest doubt that they would make it absolutely impossible to carry on the work for which I am responsible; and I fail to understand why I am again called upon to submit for me impossible proposals, because the Government of India have expressed a desire for reduction

if possible. It seems to me that what the Government of India desire is, to ascertain whether any reduction is possible and, if so, how it can be brought about.

8. With regard to the request that I shall confine myself to the requirements of my own office, I submit that, this is even more impossible, under the conditions by which I am bound. The other matter is a moral impossibility; but this is a physical impossibility. The accounts establishment of the province is one and indivisible; there is no separate section of it, appertaining to my office, which I ^{can} consider apart from any other. I respectfully submit that I can no more do this, than I could construct a four-sided triangle. And if I cannot deal with the accounts establishment of my own office otherwise than in connection with the general establishment of accountants for the presidency; neither can I deal with the clerical establishment of my office apart from the establishment of accountants.

9. I have every desire to bring about a reduction of the cost of the establishment at the earliest possible moment. I am well aware that nothing else that I could do is so likely to secure the approval which I naturally desire. I believe that, in time, a reduction of cost can be effected, not only without sacrifice of efficiency, but with a positive increase of efficiency; but I am convinced that any immediate reduction of the establishment, whether of clerks or accountants, is absolutely incompatible with the most ordinary efficiency; and that any reduction must be preceded by and will only be possible as a consequence of re-organization.

10. In ~~these~~ circumstances, I request the favor of your

instructions as to the action to be taken by me on the orders conveyed in G.O. No. 2247 W. dated 23rd. July 1888.

(True Copy)

W. Patten

Suptt. Correspondence Branch.

any future com-
is subject, the
of this letter

No. 143 *h*

From Major C. H. P. Christie R.E.
~~The~~ EXAMINER,
PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS,
MADRAS,

To
The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.
Madras, 23 August 1888

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of
G.O.No.2247 W.dated the 23rd.July 1888,regarding the reduc-
tion of the establishment of clerks and accountants of my
office,and with reference thereto,and in accordance with
para 343 of the P.W.D.Code,I have the honor to forward,for
the information of Government,a copy of my letter No. 272 A
dated 23rd August 1888.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant.

C. H. P. Christie

Major R.E.

Examiner P.W.Accounts Madras.

E.1
P.W.8505

Ally

P.W.C.A.

B. No 2247 W. 23. 7. 88
L.C. 1335 W. 7. 5. 88
" 2610, 2611 W. 4. 10. 87
" 1147 W. 26. 4. 87
" 1146 W. 26. 4. 87

From

The Examiner P.W. Accounts
Madras.

To,

The Secretary to Government,
P.W. Department.

No. 173 W

Dated 23^d August 1888.

Recd. 27th do

Enclos. 1

Reduction of establishment
of the Examiner's office. Forwards
copy of a letter addressed to the
Accountant General P.W.D. request-
ing instructions with reference to
orders of Govt. regarding the----

No. 28. 8. 88. L.C. 163. 88

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 12th September 1888

Read the following

Letter from the Examiner P.W. Accts. No 173 W. of 23^d August 1888.

Ordered that the Government
of India be addressed.

H.R. No 2882 W. of 12th September 1888

To

The Secy. to the Govt. of India
J. W. D.

Sir,

I am directed to state

that on receipt of your letter
No 1670 L. of 7th June 1888, the
orders as noted in the margin
(copy attached for reference) were
communicated to the Examiner
P.W. Accts. I am now directed

x No 2247 W. of 23^d July 1888.

20.9.11 ✓
to forward for the information
of the Government of India,
a copy of that officer's reply, No 173 W. of 23rd August 1888.
from which it will be seen
that he has referred the
orders which he has received
for the instructions of the
Accountant General P. W.
Department.

(1)

Let
5/9/88

No 1882
1883 W. of W. September
1888

14/9

7/11/8

17/9 1888

10.9.88
163.8.88 7/9