

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 3192 W

DATED 16th Nov 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lamine Accounts: Ros. Revenue Dept
Recording Board's Ros. Submitting explanation
from the collector of Kurumool relative to
certain irregularities in the making
up of — brought to notice by the Suptg.
Engineering, Alameda

Dr 16/11/97

17/11

CURRENT No. 10859

The Revenue department.

Order

Recorded

Inds No. 5524

Dated 27th October 1897.

Received

Registered

Enclosures /

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Receiving B.P. Submitting
letter from the Collr. of Hurmool
Submitting explanation re-
garding certain irregularities
brought to notice by the Suptg
Engineer in regard to famine
accounts.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
Dated the 15th October 1897.
No. 8419 Dis.

No. 8419 8ms.

W. J. H. de Faurie Esq.

(Famine Commissions).

Read the following letter from the Collector
of Karnool, Dist. No: 813/7, dated the 10th October
1897:—

1897:- With reference to Board's Proceedings No. 7558 Dns. dated 13th September 1897, I have the honour to submit the explanation called for in Government Order No. 4747 Dns. dated 8th September 1897. The Executive Engineer complains of the following irregularities on the part of the Tahsildars, viz: (1) delay in sending their imprest Accounts, (2) overdrawal of their imprests, (3) incorrect preparation of their Accounts, which I proceed to deal with Serialim.
The Imprest Accounts.

Serialism?
2.2. Delay in sending their imprest Accounts.
dated 26th July

2.2. Delay in sending their reports
In his circular no: 57, dated 26th July 1897, the Superintending Engineer requested that Accounts with all connected vouchers should be sent once a week, and orders were issued accordingly to the Tahsildars. That the Superintending Engineer should stake in his endorsement No: 3255 dated 31st August 1897

1897

1897, apparently as a reflection on this District, that in the Bellary District accounts are sent daily is not therefore understood. The Accountant-General, on the other hand, in his letter read in Government Order No. 4090 Dns, dated 6th August 1897, considered that the requirements of the Public Works Department would be met if Tahsildars were directed to send in their Accounts twice a week. The table given below shows the number of times the Tahsildars sent in Accounts to the Executive Engineer between 1st June and the date of the Executive Engineer's letter on which this reference has arisen.

Name of Taluk	June	July	August up to the 28 th
Pattikonda	3	3	3
Ramallakotta	4	2	3
Nandyal	5	3	1
Sinnel	7	9	4
Koilkuntla	3	5	2

There does not appear to have been any regularity in the Pattikonda and Sinnel Taluk Offices, the rule, till the receipt of Board's Proceedings No. 567 dated 14th August 1897, communicating definite orders of Government on the subject, being that Accounts should be

he sent in once a week as requested by the Superintending Engineer. The Nandyal and Koilkuntla Tahsildars infringed the rule in July and August and in June and August respectively, while the Ramallakotta Tahsildar made default in July. At Nandyal I had during the height of the famine to get rid of (a) a Tahsildar who had proved incompetent to carry on his work properly as soon as the numbers on relief began to rise rapidly, (b) an indifferent head Accountant, the confusion in which these two men left the taluk Office Accounts to a great extent for the delay in sending vouchers to the Executive Engineer. At Ramallakotta the Shamshtadar who was attending to the Accounts business fell sick and had to be granted leave, and several of the clerks were withdrawn to fill paymaster's appointments in consequence of the sudden rise in the numbers on works in July. At Koilkuntla, where the Tahsildar has really taken considerable pains over his Accounts, the chief reason for the delay is, I believe, the fact that he insisted till quite recently on holding a sort of audit of the vouchers before despatching them to the Executive Engineer. It was a long time before I succeeded in disabusing him of the idea that the Audit was to take place in the

1 the Executive Engineer, and not in his Office.

3. Overdrawal of their imprest.

In his Audit Slip A. P. H/121 A. of 4th June

1897, the Accountant-General states that the

practice is unauthorised and highly irregular,

but that when Public Works Department Officers

of delay sending cheques to recoup the imprests of

and money is absolutely necessary for making

payments, the treasury must of course be drawn

on. Again, in his letter dated 22nd July 1897,

reading Government Order No. 4090, D.O. dated

6th August 1897, he states that he has so

far tolerated it simply from the fear that the

refusal to meet the irregular drafts might

cause delay in the relief of distress. The

instructions issued from this Office, previous

to the receipt of Board's Proceedings No. 567,

dated 14th August 1897, in which the practice

is absolutely prohibited, were that overdraw

als should not take place, except in cases

of urgent necessity, but I fear that the

knowledge that the Accountant-General was

tolerating the practice under certain circum-

stances caused the Tahsildars to be less careful

in the regular despatch of their imprest Accounts

to the Executive Engineer than they otherwise would

have been. The chief cause of the overdraw

als, of which all the Tahsildars have, more or

less, been guilty, was want of promptness in

rendering

rendering their Accounts and the consequent
delay in getting their imprest recouped. The Exe-
cutive Engineer was in my opinion to blame
to some extent for keeping the imprest at rather
too low a figure when the numbers on relief
works were fast increasing.

4. Incorrect preparation of their Accounts.

This probably refers to the Accounts
maintained by the paymasters, in which several
irregularities were discovered by the peripate-
tic Accountants. As the Executive Engineer
gives no details, it is impossible for me to offer
any explanation in regard to this part of his Com-
plaint. I have no doubt, however, that the
inspections made by these Accountants have
tended to minimize the irregularities, though
it is possible that their instructions were not
at first properly understood by the paymasters.

5. In conclusion, I beg to state that on
receipt of Board's Proceedings No. 567 dated 14th
August 1897, the stringent orders that had already
been issued from time to time relative to the
prompt rendering of Accounts to the Executive
Engineer were repeated with the warning that
any further inattention to instructions on the
point would injuriously affect the Tahsil-
dars future prospects in the Government Service
and that since then I have not received any
complaints.

Resolution:

Resolution

Submitted to Government with reference
to Government Order No. 4747 Mis, dated 8th
September 1897.

(True copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. P. Buckley,
Famine Secretary.

The Secretary to Government,

Revenue Department.

(True copy.)

M. Marjoribanks,

Ag. Under Secretary to Government.

F 5,000-1-5-97.
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REVENUE DEPARTMENT

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read again G.O. No. 4747 Mis, d/8th Sep-

tember 1897.

Read also Proceedings of the Board

of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, etc., No. 8419 Mis, d/15th October
1897.

Order thereon, No. 5524 Mis, dated the 27th October 1897.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

M. Marjoribanks,

Ag. Under Secretary to Government.

To

The P.W.D.

" Famine Commissioner.

OWS. 1
10857/97

9/12/97

Gobt. of {189 } Madras.

REVENUE.

To

Dated

Reed.

Encl.

Mis.
R. G.O.,

189 , No.

SUBJECT.