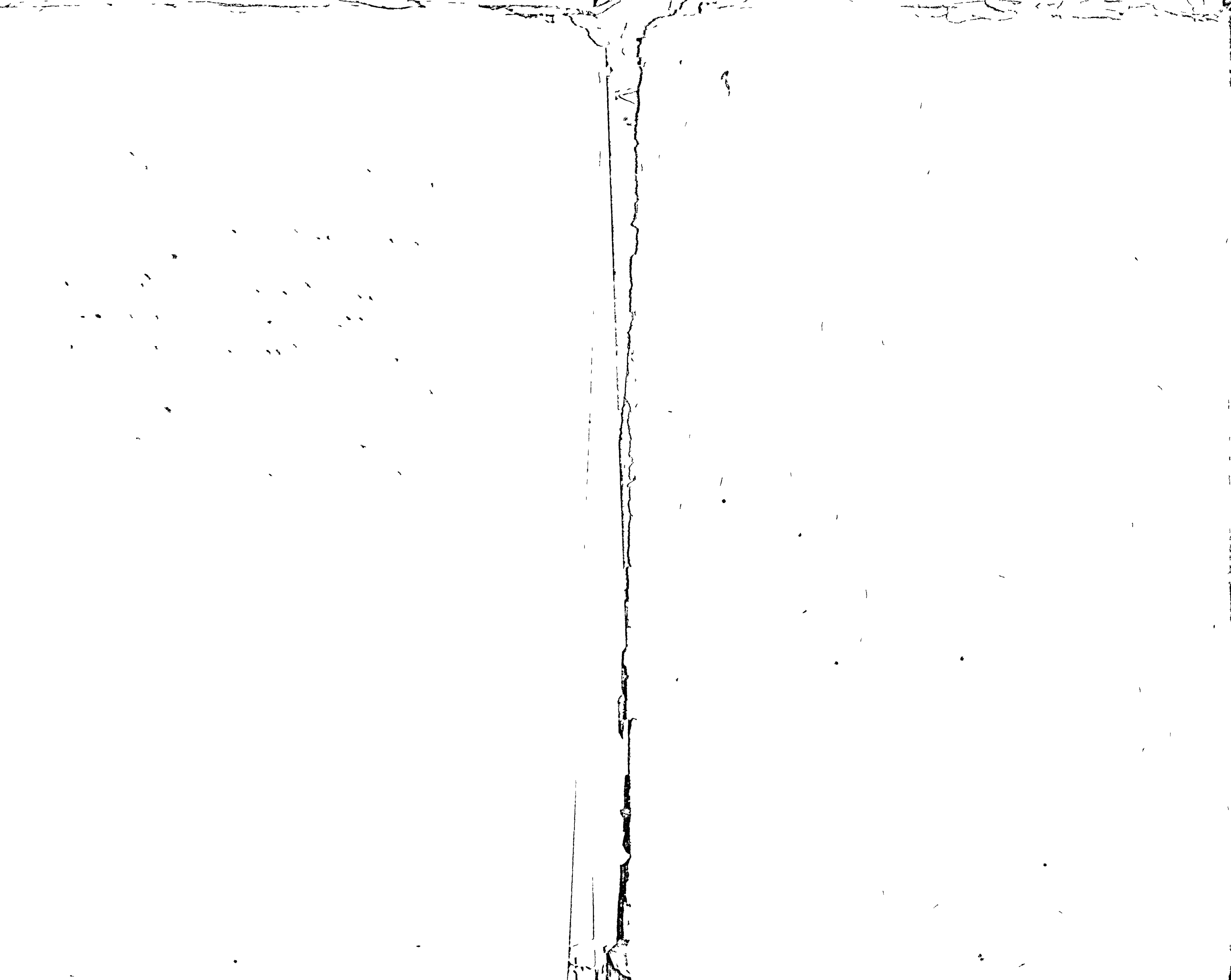




Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 910 W

DATED 31. March 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Delay in submission of an application for Gratuity
Pro: Pension Dept requesting that the Ex. Engineer
Nilapattam be called on to explain the great
delay that was allowed to occur in the submission
of an application for an invalid Gratuity on behalf
of a person in the Conservancy Establishment of that Dept.
Com to S.E. & Circle with remarks.

S. S. V. C. 1111
Copy of the book P. W. C.
with ref. to Amer.
Hippocampus longus.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read ^{again} para 3 of G.O. No 961 (Russian)

dated 10th October 1896.

Read also the following papers:-

From the Examiner, P.W. Accounts } Dated 29th Jan'y 1897
Madras } N^o 3365
Encl^s. of the Public Works Depart^t — — 11th Feby 1897.
N^o 8850

Envt. of the Public Works Depart. — 11 Feby 1897.
N:885

Order thereon, 20th March 1897 No. 242.

In the Government order read above the Executive Engineer of the Nagapattinam Division was called upon to explain the delay of 8 months which took place in the submission of an application for an invalid's gratuity on behalf of a lascar in the conservancy establishment of that Division. The lascar was pronounced unfit for further service by the Civil Apothecary in Medical Charge of Mannargudi on the 4th November 1895. The fact was reported to the Executive Engineer on the 6th idem and on the 14th the sub-divisional officer was called upon to submit the requisite information for completing

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in completing the lascars' pension papers.

G's information is said to have been partially supplied on the 19 November but it was found necessary to issue a further reference to the sub-divisional officer requesting him to report the date of the lascars' relief from duty. The necessary reply was apparently received in a letter dated 4 December 1895 and the lascars' pension papers should then forthwith have been prepared and submitted for the orders of Government. The file appears, however, to have been entirely laid on one side. A reference to it must have been necessary in the following March when another subordinate whose case formed the subject of the same correspondence, made personal representations on the subject to the Executive Engineer. Again in May, the lascar himself having died, his widow presented a petition in person to the Executive Engineer, which it is said passed through his office without notice being taken of it.

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the matter, because the Clerks concerned were waiting "till the sub-divisional officer's reply was received", though, as has already been pointed out the sub-divisional officer had apparently answered the last reference on the subject in the preceding December. It was not until August that the gratuity application actually left the Executive Engineer's hands and there is, in the papers now before Government, nothing which adequately accounts for the delay which was permitted to take place.

The Executive Engineer's explanation is that in the short period during which the delay occurred there were changes in his office staff, and that one member of his establishment, the Accountant, Kuppusami Nagudu, unnecessarily detained the papers between December and March. With reference to the first portion of this explanation the Government observes that Mr. R. R. Ratnasalethapathi Pillai Amerul has committed a grave error and shown great ignorance of his duty in characterizing the period of delay in this case as "short". The Government has repeatedly laid down that the preparation of pension applications is a matter requiring the immediate and personal attention

of the officers responsible for their submission and the fact that certain changes took place in the Executive Engineer's office establishment is no excuse for that officer's failure to take such steps as might have been necessary in order to ensure the prompt disposal of urgent papers. With reference to the second portion of the explanation, the Government observes that Accountant, Kuppuswami Nayudu alleges that the Head Clerk was responsible for the preparation of the gratuity application and that he himself was merely on one occasion shown the papers "for his advice", and surmises that the Head Clerk "might have thought that since the man was dead ~~no~~ no action was necessary under Article 1044 of the Civil Service Regulations. This explanation, if true, exonerates the Accountant; but it should have been at once apparent to the Executive Engineer that it was his duty to investigate the question of the Head Clerk's responsibility. Instead of doing this, however, he merely forwarded the Accountant's explanation in original to the Superintending Engineer, endorsing thereon a remark which shows that he had perused the papers with as little care that he had not grasped

the nature of the Accountant's defence, for he describes that individual as excusing himself for keeping back the papers owing to a misconception of Article 1044 of the Civil Service Regulations.

3. For these reasons the Government regrets that it cannot accept the Executive Engineer's explanation as in any degree adequate and he will now be requested, in the Public Works Department, to submit a detailed statement showing as far as possible precisely where the papers were during the period 31st October 1895 to 1st August 1896, explaining who was responsible for the delay which took place during the various stages, and reporting what punishment it is proposed to inflict upon the clerks at fault.
(True Extract)

Donald Davidson
22-3-97
Under Secy to Govt

To,
The Public Works Dept.

mt
22/3/97

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