~~Marine~~ P.W. (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 12^{5}10 W

DATED 4 May 1899

[Despatch Abstract.]

Mr. F. W. Arkpitel, Supdt. of Works, Lighthouse D.

Approving the proposal to entrust, to a special officer, the preparation of data to fix rates and the revision of the Standard Specification of the Dept., and directing, with remarks, that — shall take up the work in addition to his own duties.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Government {1899} of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd. } 1899. *Enclosures*
Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 1210 W., 4th May 1899.

MAY.

Mr. F. W. Ashpitel, Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse Division

Approving the proposal to entrust, to a special officer, the preparation of data to fix rates and the revision of the standard specification of the department; and directing, with remarks, that — shall take up the work in addition to his own duties.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

Read—the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Rates Committee, dated 16th January 1899.

Resolved—

I. That this Committee, after reading the Chief Engineer's instructions contained in his memo., No. 66 C., dated 4th January 1899, is of opinion—

(*a*) That its meetings can only be fixed, and business expeditiously disposed of, when sufficient data have been collected, and tabulated in proper form, for the consideration of the Committee ; and that, since the collection, comparison, and tabulation of data entails the expenditure of much time and labour, such work can only be done expeditiously by a special officer who can give his whole time to the matter.

(*b*) That the data for concrete, as already settled at the previous meeting of 15th December 1898, contains as much information as it is desirable to fix at this stage of the Committee's proceedings.

(*c*) That, under the existing system, whereby a mass of voluminous and unsifted data have separately to be studied and compared by all six members of the Committee, it is not possible to produce a better outturn of work than has hitherto been done ; and that, in order to obtain better results, it is essential that the special officer above referred to shall be attached to the Committee and appointed to collect and tabulate data, to refer his tabulated data to Superintending Engineers, to visit the various districts and settle doubtful points in communication with the local officers, to compile for each district, data sufficient to thoroughly revise the district schedules of rates and specifications, and then to lay the results of his labours before the Committee for its final decision.

Office-note from the Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse Division, dated 17th February 1899.

I understand that two distinct things are required :

(1) the revision of specifications ;
(2) the preparation of data ;

and that Mr. Stoney and a clerk will be available—the former for testing materials, etc., and the latter for clerical work. I shall also require the services of a draftsman to draw plans of roofs, doors, windows, etc., and to take out quantities ; but for this work an allowance of, say, Rs. 100 may be paid to my draftsmen who can do the work out-of-hours.

2. The amount of work required is considerable and will take up all my spare time and I cannot undertake it for less than Rs. 500 for each of the above, or Rs. 1,000 in all.

// Note
It is now
proposed to
depute Mr
Manickam
Nayakar
instead of
Mr. Stoney
who cannot be
spared from the
C.A.'s Dvn.

Order—No. 1210 W., dated 4th May 1899.

His Excellency the Governor in Council approves of the proposal to entrust to a special officer, the following work which was originally proposed to be done by the Rates Committee appointed by the Chief Engineer :—

(1) Preparation of data to fix rates.
(2) Revision of the standard specifications of the department.

2. Mr. F. W. Ashpitel, Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse division, will take up the work in addition to his own duties, and will, under article 89 (*a*) and (*b*) of the Civil Service Regulations, be granted, on completion of the work to the satisfaction of the Chief Engineer, an honorarium of Rs. 500 for each undertaking.

3. All officers of the department who may be applied to will furnish Mr. Ashpitel with such information as he may require in connection with this special work.

4. Mr. Ashpitel will submit separate proposals, accompanied by a proposition statement for any additional establishment which he may find necessary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. B. deWINTON,
Secretary to Government.

To Superintending Engineers.
„ the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.
„ the Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse Division.
„ the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
„ the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ the Consulting Architect to Government.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

Do not print N. 376 C d/ 18-1-99

Proceedings of Rates Committee, dated 16 Jan/99

18

Resolved

I. That this Committee, after reading the Chief Engr's instructions, contained in his Memo 66 C. dated 4 Jan: 1899, is of opinion

(a) That its meetings can only be fixed, and business expeditiously disposed of, when sufficient data have been collected, & tabulated in proper form, for the consideration of the Committee; and that, since the collection, comparison, and tabulation of data entails the expenditure of much time & labour, such work can only be done expeditiously by a special officer who can give his whole time to the matter.

(b) That the data ~~as already~~ for Concrete, as already settled at the previous meeting of 15 Dec. 1898, contains as much information as it is desirable to fix at this stage of the Committee's proceedings.

II. (c) ~~That, having regard to the Chief~~ that, under the existing system, whereby a mass of voluminous and unsifted data have separately to be studied and compared by all 6 members of the Committee, it is not possible to produce a better out-turn of work than has hitherto been done; and that, in order to ~~produce this~~ obtain better results, it is essential that the special officer above referred to shall be attached to the Committee & appointed to collect & tabulate data, to refer his tabulated data to S.E.s; ~~& consider~~ to visit the various districts and settle developed points in communication with the local officers, Do not print No. 376 C d/ 18-1-99 10

Proceedings of Rates Committee, dated 16 Jan/99

18

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(2)

to compile for each district data sufficient to thoroughly revise the District Schedules of Rates, and specification and then to lay the results of his labours, before the Committee for its final decision.

II. That the Proceedings of the previous meeting, dated 15 Decr. 1898, be confirmed with the two following exceptions:—

(1) That Resolution I be rescinded, and the formula ~~arrived at the~~ at settled by the first meeting of 16 Novr., 1898, be adhered to, the amended page, ~~above~~ herewith circulated, being substituted for page 2 of the Proceedings of 16 Novr. 1898, owing to mistakes having been found in the typed copy of those Proceedings.

(2) That Resolution III be amended by the insertion of the word "proposed" after the word "materials" in the first line of the Resolution

III. That the following data for 1st & 2nd class Brickwork be provisionally accepted, subject, on further enquiry, to a small reduction in the quantity of mortar

(Here enter accompanying sheets A and B)

IV. That data for stonework, depending as it does on the quality and size of stone obtainable in various districts, cannot be exhibited in any general form, and such, together with a Specification for each class of stone, be prepared by a specialist in communication with District Officers.

not to print

2

(3)

V. That data for the following descriptions of work be collected, and circulated for the consideration of the members of the Committee, before the next meeting, the date of which will hereafter be fixed & notified by the President.

Brick walls (124–129 Schedule of Rates)
Flooring (162–192)
Plastering (193–233)
Roofing (234–254)

VI?

VII. That, in accordance with para 2 of Chief Engr's Memo No 4180 C, dated 23 Sept/98, constituting the Committee, Mr Ashpitel, who being out in Camp, was unable to attend this meeting, be requested to signify in writing to the President, at an early date, his assent to the Proceedings; or to submit a minute on any Resolution from which he dissents or has remarks to offer.

A.K.
16-1-99
Pres: Rates Com.

Circulated to
Col. Smart
Messrs Davidson
Harris
Wilson
Ashpitel
Russell.

ant 18/1/99

No: 66C of 4-1-99
5700C of 16-12-98
5555C of 9-12-98
4180C of 23-9-98 (SC)

A

(5)

Brickwork. First class, with joints 3/8".

No. bricks as below

cft lime
cft surki } mortar as below.
cft. sand

(a) 4 no bricklayers.
(b) 2 no men coolies
(c) 4 no women ~~&~~ boys.
Waterwomen according to locality
1/4 water boy (for drinking water)
cft grinding mortar.
Sundries, baskets &c.
Contractors profit

Bricks		Mortar
Size	number	cft
9" × 4½" × 3¼"	1190.	20
9" × 4½" × 3"	1275	20½
9" × 4½" × 2¾"	1375	21½
9" × 4½" × 2½"	1500	22
9" × 4½" × 2¼"	1630	23
9" × 4½" × 2"	1810	25

Note.

The mortar to consist of lime and sand; or of lime, sand & surki in the proportion fixed by the Engineer; The ~~[illegible]~~ quantity of mortar obtainable from the same measure of lime & sand, or lime sand and surki, varies in each locality according to the quality of lime and fineness of sand and surki.

For superstructure, ~~add~~ and for each upper story, add 25% to items (a) (b) & (c)

Scaffolding to be estimated separately.

In places where 1st class brick work has not been done before, it ~~will~~ may be necessary, ~~&~~ for small works, to increase the number of bricklayers by one.

for teak (deflection $\frac{L}{40}$ inches) E = 1,728,000. $bd^3 = \frac{WL^2}{160}$

" ditto " E = 2,000,000 $bd^3 = \frac{WL^2}{180}$

" deflection $\frac{L}{30}$ inches) E = 1,728,000. $bd^3 = \frac{WL^2}{210}$

" ditto " E = 2,000,000. $bd^2 = \frac{WL^2}{240}$

~~For teak, $bd^3 = \frac{WL^2}{180}$ (deflection $\frac{1}{40}$, E = [illegible] or E = 1,728,000~~

~~$bd^3 = \frac{WL^2}{240}$ (deflection $\frac{1}{30}$) 40 = 2,000,000~~

~~$bd^2 = \frac{WL}{208}$ (factor of safety 7. F = 730 in the formula).~~

VI. That for flat roofs.

Buildings be divided into two classes

(a) Ordinary dwellings and buildings which are not likely to be occupied by crowds, and which should be so designed that none but workmen can climb on to them.

(b) Large buildings likely to be occupied at times by crowds.

VII. That the loads to be allowed on flat roofs and floors be as follows:-

Roofs.

Class (a), total load = dead load + 20 lbs per sq. ft.
Class (b), total load = dead load + 70 lbs per sq. ft.
which will work out for an ordinary Madras terrace roof of 8" thick.

Class (a), total load 100 lbs per sq. ft.
Class (b), total load 150 lbs per sq. ft.

Weights for floors of ordinary dwellings = dead load + 112 lbs.

Do- Warehouses, Machine shops, &c., = dead load + 224 lbs.

VIII. That the following be taken for flat roofs

~~Joists, E = 2,000,000~~ stet

Girders, E = 1,728,000

Deflection in each case being $\frac{1}{40}$th inch per foot of span.

stet Joists, $bd^3 = \frac{WL^2}{180}$

Girders, $bd^3 = \frac{WL^2}{160}$

IX. That the proposals in IV to VIII inclusive be circulated to the Members of the Committee and finally considered at the next meeting, and be then confirmed or altered in accordance with the sense of the majority.

X.

To be substituted for page 2 of Proceedings of Rate Committee for 15th Nov 1898

P. W. 29.
1,000—29-11-98.

9 (8)

Public Works (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 1526

From The Supt of Works Lighthouse Dn

No.

Dated 17 — 2 — 99

Received } 20"
Registered }

Enclosures 1 file.

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Informing the terms on which he can undertake the further work of the Rates Committee.

See notes within
ASA 2.3.99

W. I recommend, ~~a note~~ that Mr Ashpitel's proposals be accepted, & that a note for orders be accordingly submitted to Govt. He has a special knowledge of Rates and is in an exceptionally favourable situation to determine any special rate, as he does work departmentally in a number of different districts. A Committee, as I pointed out in Mr Mackenzie's original proposals, cannot finish the work in any reasonable time

For orders

ACK
22. 2. 99.

The offer I consider reasonable. Please draw up a note explaining generally what has been done & why a special offer is reqd. for the work.

23/2/99

[P. W. 29. / 1,000—29-11-98.]

No 943C d/ 13-2-99 ✓
" 376C " 18-1-99 ✓
" 66C " 4-1-99 ✓
" 5700C " 16-12-98 ✓
" 5555C " 9-12-98 ✓
" 5133C " 18-11-98 ✓
" 4180C " 23-9-98 ✓

Linked file

" 2993W d/ 23-11-98 ✓
" 2992W " 23-11-98 ✓
" 2755W " 26-10-98 ✓
" 1917W " 29-7-98 ✓
" 4327C " 26-10-97 ✓

Linked file

" 352-3D d/ 28-4-98 ✓

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
943C	13.2.99		
1 file marked Storey W			

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Unofficially

No. 943C

C

Urgent

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

Madras, 13. 2. 1899.

OFFICE NOTE.

From D. W.

To Supdt. of Works
Lighthouse Divn

Please see remarks in this file regarding further work of Rates Committee being handed over to you, and state whether you will undertake the work & on what terms.

2. The work required is (1) Revision and preparation of data for all work executed by this Dept
(2) Revision of standard Specifications

3. This Govt. can only sanction upto a limit of Rs 500.

ACK
13. 2. 99.

To D.W.

I understand that two distinct things are required
(1) the revision of specifications
(2) the preparation of data.
& that Mr. Storey & a clerk would be available, the former for testing materials etc, & the latter for clerical work. I shall also require the services of a draftsman to draw plans of roofs, doors, windows etc & to take out quantities but for this work an allowance of say Rs 100 may be paid to any draftsmen who can do the work out of hours

(2) The amount of work required is considerable & will take up all my spare time & I cannot undertake it for less than Rs 500 for each of the above or Rs 1000 in all.

[illegible]
7/2/99

with file to be returned with reply.

[P. W. 48.
505 24.3-95.]

(11)

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

READ the following :—

Office Note from the Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse Division d/ 17th February 1899.

Fixing of rates for work in districts & revision of the stan specifications of the P.W.D.

Circulated to

The Hon. Mr. Arundel C.S.

FOR ORDERS.

The G.O.s should be quoted & flagged. I do not know what is referred to.
N.A

In recent G.O.s Government ha warned officers of the Public Works Department that they will in futur be held responsible for excesses on estimates. Such excesses are mainly a particular description of work, ie buildings, and rarely occur on Irrigation* works. They are, when they occu ~~due to three causes~~ and are not due to extra work or changes in plan etc, caused as follows:—

(1) Defective preparation of original estimate

(2) Inexperience of the class of work on the part of the subordinate in immediate charge

(3) General ignorance and slackness of native Contractors

As regards (2) and (3) it may be briefly pointed out that capable subordinates will execute work

* A large item on irrigation and Railway works is earth work, a very simple and profitable description of work — and Contractors expect by their greater profit on earth work to recoup themselves for loss or small profit in the masonries which may go into the earth work.

Hm. 2.3.8 / 25.5.99

om 10 to 25 per cent cheaper than experienced ones; that the latter lass comprises the great majority of native subordinates of the P.W.D, eally good subordinates being, as evi-enced by the Recommendation Rolls, very few; And that, except in a few big towns, there are no Competent ontractors. The areas within which Mofussil works are Carried out being so large in proportion to the subordinate staff allotted, it is a physical impossibility, without a large increase of establishment, to Carry out works other than by the agency of Contractors, the necessity for making frequent payments alone demanding the frequent presence of a Contractor or subordinate on each work. It will thus be apparent that the Officers of the Department in the Mofussil are thus, in respect of the execution of works, very much at the mercy of the generally inferior subordinates And Contractors available, And that excesses on the rates of estimates are thus often in no way the fault of the estimator. In every Country except India, a Contractor

is held liable for failing in the performance of his Contract, And the falls on him And not his empl In India, or at least in This Pres -cy, This is not the general case - the Contractor fails, the Governmen Suffers.

II As regards (1) of para I Su it is clear that estimates which have Com under revision have, in the past, not always been carefully prepared by the local Officers, And that excess have sometimes been due to this Cau It should, however, be remembered that much good estimating is done which, not requiring revision, does not Come under the notice of Government. A Common cause of excess is the uncertainty regarding the rates at which work Can be done in many parts of the Mofussil. The determination of rates is not an Engineer's business, but a Contractor's business. For instance in England, in the Royal Engineer Commands, the Engineer supervises the Construction And is responsible for the quality of materials And work, t the payment and settlement ' rates are made by clerks or other fficials specially deputed for the urpose. Everywhere else but in ndia, the Engineer is concerned with quantities alone, i.e. with estimating proper, and the Contractor, basing his opinion on actual experience, which is the only real guide, undertakes to execute work at certain rates. In doing so, he takes good care to fix such rates as shall, in the generality of cases, secure him from the risk of loss, and as a rule makes very large profits. The Officers of the P.W.D may be forced, under the recent order, to raise the rates, and so save themselves, with the result that, though excesses will disappear, Government will obviously pay considerably more for work than it has hitherto done. This is certainly not good policy. As a matter of fact, what Government has, in recent G.O's, practically done is, to put their Engineer Officers into the position of Contractors in addition to their proper professional

work, with this marked difference that, while they are held responsible for loss, they cannot take the profits of economical execution of work. This, it is submitted is hardly legal.

What order? Para 1 says G.O.'s. M.A.

III An absolutely reliable forecast in engineering works is most difficult of attainment. There are so many factors to be considered, and in no country in the world have estimates for public works attained any degree of certainty, the Manchester Ship Canal, the Panama Canal, &c, designed and executed by the best European Engineering talent, being recent and conspicuous instances of failure. It is therefore hardly likely that, with the inferior subordinates and Contractors available in this Presidency, better results can be achieved than in Europe and America.

IV. One thing, however we can do to lessen the number of revised estimates. This is to examine and revise very closely the rates for each district, so that they shall, as a rule,

(i.e. excluding labour difficulties, unhealthy seasons, bad Communications owing to Monsoon damages &c) be sufficient. To enable this to be done, as well as to revise at the same time the standard specifications, a special Committee was appointed in Chief Engineer's Circular, Flag I. Mr Russell pointed out, at the time it was proposed to appoint such a Committee, that the task was not one that could be achieved, in any reasonable time, by a Committee sitting in Madras, and the correctness of this conclusion has since been established by an unanimous vote of the Committee, (paras 1 (a) + 1 (c) of Flag G) who, after having held several sittings, recommended that a special Officer be appointed for the purpose. No better Officer can be selected than Mr Ashpitel, who has unrivalled facilities for determining accurate rates, since he carries out works departmentally all over the Presidency — an advantage enjoyed by no

I see Mr Ashpitel was invited to specify terms!

MA

~~This is a curious idea — a paid servant of Govt. offering to sell his services, if desired to do extra work! Govt. servants must do whatever work they are ordered to do. It is for Govt. to decide the remuneration they shall receive.~~ Mr A. appears to have a most erroneous idea of his position & obligations & duties. ASA 2.3.99

& any application for a moderate grant sent up to India takes over a year & more to settle, as it has to run the gauntlet of both the P.W & Financial Depts of G of I.

! !

Presumably then Mr Ashpitel's ordinary duties must be very light or he could not undertake this "very heavy task." ~~[illegible]~~ I see

~~MA 2.3.99~~

other Officer of the P.W.D.

V. Mr Ashpitel undertakes (Flag A) to do the work, in addition to his regular duties, on the following terms:—

(a) An honorarium of Rs 500 for the preparation of data to fix rates.

(b) A further honorarium of Rs 500 for the distinct work of revising the standard specifications of the Department.

By thus dividing the work to be done into two parts, which are in reality distinct, the sanction of the Government of India will not be required, and delay will be avoided (vide Article 89 (b) C.S.R.)

(c) An additional temporary clerk in his Office, and an honorarium of Rs 100 to his Head Draftsman for the extra work that will be thrown on him.

The terms are moderate, the task being a very heavy one and requiring much judgment to perform satisfactorily. It is recommended that they be approved, and Mr Ashpitel be set to work without delay. After the completion of

P.T.O.

[500—14-11-98.]

[1000—28-3-99.]

his work, the results will be sub-mitted to the Committee already appointed for final check and revision.

A K
28.2.99.

28/2/99

Flag I

That the Rates Committee Res I. (a) propose "a special officer who can give his whole time to the matter."

I do not see on what authority Mr. Ashpitel was invited by the M.S. to state his "terms."

H.E.'s order may be in the file but references are not given

It has to be decided – if he is the best officer for the work – whether his time is fully occupied, whether he could undertake the special work in addition to his present duties, or whether he should not temporarily be relieved of other work in order to complete the special work.

M.A.
2.3.99.

READ the following:—

Office note from the Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse Dn. d/ 17th February 1899.

Subject:— Remarks by the Hon. Mr Arundel on "For Orders" note of 28th February '98 on employment of Mr Ashpitel to revise rates &c.

Circulated to

~~The Hon. Mr. Arundel C.S.~~
H.E. the Governor

FOR ORDERS.

As H.E. has now returned to Madras I will not note on this paper unless he desires it.

Flag G in linked file

M.A. 11.3.99

I should like to have a statement of the exact work Mr. Ashpitel has to do now. The Light-house programme is now, I believe, settled, and upper subordinates have been put in charge of each work. I infer, therefore, that general supervision only remains for Mr. Ashpitel to carry out. Possibly, he may have some travelling to do, for purposes of inspection. I should wish for full information. A.S.H. 20.3.99

A whole series of G.O's has lately drawn the attention of officers of the P.W. Department to their responsibility for excesses on estimates, the most recent being G.O. 2993 W, of 23rd November '98. The G.O's are scattered over a number of files, and were not originally sent up, as the matter has repeatedly come before Government, and was only indirectly referred to in the "For Orders" note. The latest G.O. on the subje together with others, is now put up as a linked file. And it woul be well for me to say that Cons derable alarm has been caus in the Department by these G.O which have been taken to mea tha

~~Superintending~~ Executive Engineers will be made to pay for excesses incurred in execution, ~~of~~ on Estimates submitted by them.

2. Mr Ashpitel was proposed for the double duty of fixing rates and revising the Standard Specifications, under the terms of Civil Service Regulations, '89 (a), as having special knowledge of the subject, and being able to undertake the work concurrently with his own duties, which, as particularly pointed out, give him unrivalled facilities for so doing. No advantage will be gained by going to the expense of relieving him altogether of his regular work, since there will be considerable periods of time, while information regarding rates, &c, is being collected, when the work to be done will simply consist of compilations and comparison of figures &c, which can be undertaken by his office establishment under his supervision. There is no

reason

reason at all to infer that his regular work must be "very light" because he guarantees, for adequate remuneration, to undertake special work in addition. Such special and additional work is not uncommonly done by officers, as in the analogous cases of writing a book, &c, under Civil Service Regulations 89(a); and though, in the case now under consideration, it involves ~~the dealing with a mass of Sta~~ a very heavy task, in the sense of its involving the dealing with a mass of statistics, and necessarily occupying a considerable time, does not demand that the officer employed shall be relieved of his regular work. In Mr Ashpitel's case, there are two very good reasons why he should not be relieved of his regular work:—

(1) Because his regular work will assist him greatly in his special work.

(2) Because

(2) Because there is no one to take his place in the Light house Division. ~~It is also~~ It is also necessary to point out that officers can at present be with difficulty found for special duty, as the establishment is ~~scarcely~~ hardly adequate for the ordinary demands. It is therefore an advantage to Government that the present work required to be done should be entrusted to an officer, like Mr Ashpitel, who can do his own work without sacrifice of efficiency at the same time.

3. Mr Ashpitel was in-~~cited~~vited to say whether he could undertake the special work, and on what terms, in accordance with the Secretary's Orders, Flag F, and in the ordinary course of business, which renders it necessary that the question of remuneration should be settled beforehand, see para 2 of note of chief Engineer for Irrigation printed

That is before Govt. has approved of the question of special duty at all.
A.A. 22.4.99

* Flag H in linked file

printed with G.O. 352* I. of 28th April '98, before definite proposals can be submitted to Government. It is considered only just that Mr Ashpitel should be remunerated for this extra work, first, because it is completely outside his ordinary, legitimate work, and secondly because he is to be asked to write what is practically a ~~list~~ book of rates & specifications, and Government has always recognised that the writing of a book should be separately remunerated.

A.A.
2.3.99.

7/3/99
W.

Xd. [illegible] 7.3.99

(24)

P.W. DEPARTMENT. 10

C. No. 1210 W

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON'BLE SIR HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr Arundel C.S.I.

SUBJECT.

His Excellency's note dated 20. 3. 99 on 'For Orders' note regarding employment of Mr Ashpitel to revise rates, &c.

FOR ORDERS.

The exact work Mr Ashpitel has to do is as follows:—

First. To build the lighthouses & lighthouse quarters for the first 12 works shown in the accompanying *list. Estimates for these 12 works have been sanctioned, but only 2 of the works (Havelock Point & Manapad) are in an advanced stage of progress.

Second. To submit Estimates for the remaining 18 works shown as 12 to 30 in the list, & in due course to execute the works.

Third. To expend during 1899-1900 & 1900-1901 about 3 ½ lakhs annually on construction

2. Mr Ashpitel has more responsibility than most Executive Engrs, as his works are of a special character, & his subordinates are quite new to them, & require much detailed instruction and frequent inspection. Neither in his case, nor in that of any other Exec. Engr can the duty required be said to consist merely of "general supervision

* Flag D.

Seeing that Mr. Ashpitel has so much work to do, it is not easy to see how, as is proposed, in the Note of the 18: Jan, he can give his whole time to this special job. I believe, however, Mr. A. is specially well able to do this work, and therefore it may be in the interest of the Public Service to employ him upon it. The Hon. Mr. Arundel has already noted on these papers. I should be obliged, if he will favor note again.

A. H:
1. 4. 99

P.T.O.

P. W. 43.
500—27-1-98.

13-3-99 & 21-3-99

Mr Ashpitel has in fact to make all arrangements himself for collection & carriage of all materials to site of works, most of his light-houses being in desolate sandy tracts where no materials are available, where they often have to be carried by sea from Madras, and where labour has to be imported from a distance. All this involves continuous careful management on the part of the Ex. Engr.

3. Mr Ashpitel has already a very large amount of travelling to do all over the Presidency, & will have still more as works extend. It was, inter alia, for this reason, & because his works are executed departmentally — contractors not having the necessary experience to carry them out — that Mr Ashpitel was proposed for the double duty of (1) Preparing Schedules of rates for the whole Presidency, and (2) Revising the standard specifications; since the fact of his doing work all over the Presidency gives him unrivalled knowledge of the local rates and conditions of work in a number of districts, while his method of departmental work enables him, at any time, to strike rates of actual cost of completed works — an advantage which is unobtainable on contract works.

A.C.K.
24.3.99.

25/3/99

H.E. 25/3/99. again 24/4/99. R 26/4/99

Note for H.E.

As matters now stand I think it will be well to employ Mr Ashpitel on the special duty and to give him the honorarium proposed. He is said to be well qualified for the work. I wish however to point out that the Secretary or Ag. Secy by his unauthorized action, assumed the power of a Member of the Govt and has ~~[illegible]~~ "forced" H.E's hand, so that practically no other course than that proposed is now open. // The Committee (No 376 C d/ 18 Jany '99) (flag C) was of opinion that the "work can only be done expeditiously by a special officer who can give his whole time to the matter." Obviously the Secy. should have noted on this giving ~~the~~ his reasons for thinking that a whole time officer was unnecessary, that an officer on duty could undertake the work, that Mr Ashpitel was the best man, & that special remuneration might be desirable, & should then have taken H.E's orders on the subject. The Secretary ~~[illegible] the acting Secy. however~~ or Ag. Secy (for Mr De Winton first mentioned Mr Ashpitel's name) decided these points himself, selected Mr Ashpitel & wrote to ask that gentleman what honorarium he would fix!

Such an assumption of authority by a Secy. to Govt. is absolutely unknown in the branches of the Secretariat — i.e. Chief Secy. & Rev. Secy — in which I served.

In para 3 of his note d/ 7.3.99 the Acting Secy. says the reference to Mr Ashpitel was made "in accordance with the Secy's orders and in the ordinary course of business." I am very decidedly of opinion that such orders and such ordinary course of business as this should be unmistakeably forbidden for the future, ~~and~~ that the P.W.D. should conform to the practise of other branches of the Secretariat and but the Secy should take the orders of H.E. or the H.M. in charge of the Dept. as to the need for the employment of an officer on special duty & as to the grant of special remuneration. \\

As regards the other matter referred to in the

Indexed.

Secy's note dy 7.3.99. para 1

I see that in the E.O.'s in the linked file the Chief Engr draws attention to faulty estimating & to omission to send in revised estimates, &c., and it is only right that Govt. should insist on a proper performance of duty by its officers. Excess expenditure over original estimates must sometimes occur, but it should never be without good reason which should promptly be given & not delayed till criticism is useless.

ML 22.4.99.

~~[illegible]~~

The proposal to employ Mr. Ashpitel on this works is accepted. An honorarium of Rs. 1000 may be given him on completion of the works.

~~He~~ I agree with the observations of the Hon. Member as to the irregular character of the procedure in this case. The Sec. should make a note of this.

A. G. H.
26.4.99

List of Lighthouse works sanctioned and proposed – to be car
out by the Lighthouse Division

	Locality	Probable amount of estimate in Lakhs	Actuals to end of 1897-98	Probable outlay in 1898-99	Grant provided for 1899-1900		Grant required in subsequent years		Rem
					Work	Apparatus	Work	Apparatus	
1	Havelock Point	1.19	.32	.43	.27	.22	..	..	Sanctioned
2	Masulipatam	.09	..	.07	.02	..	..	..	— do —
3	Manapad	.51	.08	.17	.04	.22	..	..	— do —
4	Muttum	.10	..	.05	.05	..	..	..	— do —
5	Mulki	.69	..	.25	.21	.23	..	..	— do —
6	Mangalore	.07	..	.04	.03	..	..	..	— do —
7	Coondapoor	.03	..	.02	.01	..	..	..	— do —
8	Malpi	.04	..	.02	.02	..	..	..	— do —
9	Hangerkatta	.03	..	.02	.01	..	..	..	— do —
10	Seven Pagodas	.50	..	.03	.25	.23	..	..	— do —
11	Pulicat	.27	..	.01	.08	.13	.05	..	— do —
12	Armeghon	.24	..	.01	.07	.16	..	..	Estimate is awaite
13	Sacramento	1.00	..	..	..	..	.77	.23	— do —
14	Vakalapudi	.18	..	..	..	..	.02	.16	— do —
15	Tangacheri	.88	..	..	..	..	.65	.23	— do —
16	Cochin	.09	..	..	..	..	.09	..	— do —
17	Tuticorin	.13	..	..	..	..	.13	..	— do —
18	Pamban	.05	..	..	..	..	.05	..	— do —
19	Negapatam	.05	..	..	..	..	.05	..	— do —
20	Cuddalore	.04	..	..	..	..	.04	..	— do —
21	Santapilli	1.00	..	..	..	..	.77	.23	— do —
22	Kalingapatam	.05	..	..	..	..	.05	..	— do —
23	Bimlipatam	.01	..	..	..	..	.01	..	— do —
24	Vizagapatam	.03	..	..	..	..	.03	..	— do —
25	Gopalpore	.03	..	..	..	..	.03	..	— do —
26	Tellicherry	.96	..	..	..	..	.74	.22	— do —
27	Cannanore	.03	..	..	..	..	.03	..	— do —
28	Sacrifice Rock	.03	..	..	..	..	.03	..	— do —
29	Calicut	.09	..	..	..	..	.09	..	— do —
30	Madras	.01	..	..	..	..	.01	..	— do —
	Repairs (lump sum)			.05					
	Total		.40+	1.12+	1.11	1.19	3.64	1.07	+ does not include cost of apparatus
					$\underbrace{\qquad}_{2.30}$		$\underbrace{\qquad}_{4.71}$		

There are 3 Upper Subordinates working under Mr Ashpitel.
1 lower ditto

R. S. 23 Mar 99

ls 22/3/99

Expenditure to [illegible] next 2 years 2½ lakhs

(29)

A

From order

Print para 1 only

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

READ the following:—

Proceedings of the Rates Committee dated 16th January 1899.

Office note from the Supdt of Works Lighthouse Division dated 17th February 1899.

Gvt

~~Circulated to~~

3P

ORDER. No: 1210 W 24-5-99

His Excellency the Governor in Council approve of the proposal to entrust a Specia officer the following works which was originally proposed to be done by the Rates Committee appointed by the Chief Engineer. ~~are unable to carry o~~

(1) Preparation of data to fix rates.

(2) Revision of the Standa Specifications of the Dep

2. Mr Fr. W. Ashpitel Supdt of Works, Lighthous Division, will take up the works in addition to his o duties, and will, under Art: 89 (a) & (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, b granted

P. W. 42-A.
1,000—2-3-99.

granted, on completion of the work to the satisfaction of the Chief Engineer, an honorarium of Rs 500 for each undertaking.

3. All officers of the Dept. who may be applied to will furnish Mr Ashpitel with such information as he may require in connection with this special work.

4. Mr Ashpitel will submit separate proposals, accompanied by a proposition statement, for any additional establishment which he may find necessary.

S.
APK
28.4.99.

[illegible]
28/4/99

attended to
R.S.
1 Aug 99

tw

Attention is drawn to H. E's
te of 26.4.99.

S.
C.A.W

tw
I should like a note from you on this matter when the G.O has issued. W is the head of a Dept as well as a Secy to Govt, & his action was in the former capacity, it being ~~for~~ for us to make proposals to Govt until it had been ascertained whether Mr Ashpitel could undertake the duty. The orders now proposed must be followed. I fear they will entail great delay in disposal of current business.

Dd
5/5/99

To ~~The~~ Supdg. Engineers
The: Chief Engineer P.W.D.
The S. of W. L. H. D.1/ Ms.
13/5/99 Examiner P. W. Accts.
" Chief Engineer for Irrn
" Consg. Architect to Govt

A note may be put up. I cannot understand how an action passed [illegible] hands of Govt. The procedure in the [illegible] practice [illegible] be ascertained [illegible]

APK
28.4.99

4 P