

Public Works (1899) Department.

✓ G.O., No. 1476 W

DATED 7th June 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inspection Report

Explanations afforded by the Executive
Engineers, Coimbatore D., in regard to certain
points noticed in the Examiner's — of that
Division, accepted.

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[illegible]

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

with remarks.
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No.	Date.
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384 w	7-2-99
2781 w	7-10-96
558 w	14-2-96
169 w	16-1-96
2504 w	10-10-9

To
The Supt. Insp., TV Circle
1. Examr., P.W. Accts.

Letter from C. H. B. Burlington Esq;
Executive Engineer Coimbatore Division
to the Superintending Engineer 4th Circle
No. 1938, dated 22^d April 1899.

With reference to your endorse-
ment No. 91^C dated 25th February 1899
calling on me to report on the points
noted in G. O. No. 384.W. dated 7th
February 1899, forwarded therewith,
I have the honor to state that I would
have replied before, if I had been
aware of the existence of this order
which was brought to my notice for
the first time on 13th instant. It is
said to have been found among
papers left in a drawer by Mr. Coudial
Chetty, the late Accountant.

2 As regards para 4, I have to state that I frequently inspect Measurement books and bring to notice such irregularities as occur. It is true that many of them are not kept as they should be nevertheless

I consider the measurement books of this Division are, as a rule, properly maintained. The Examiner notices irregularities in four books only in his notes of inspection; and considering that he had access to all the books of the Division, with the exception of those on works, it is scarcely clear that measurement books as a whole require closer attention than what they now receive. It is stated that in several instances, the expenditure incurred against sanctioned estimates has not been distributed in the register of works by sub-heads. On enquiry, I find, that the works to which this remark refers are Filling in Ootacamund Lake, the Anamalai Roads and the Muthikolam Rest House. The first two works were under special officers not under my control, and the works being of a peculiar nature, it was found impossible to adopt a system of accounting for expenditure

expenditure by sub-heads at an advanced stage of the works, for no such system having been in vogue before, we had not the establishment necessary to give effect to such a radical change of regime. As regards the Muthikolam Rest House, I would represent that that work is a sub-head in itself, being part of the old project: for this reason its expenditure has never been accounted for by sub-heads since the time of its inception in 1895. It will be accounted for by sub-heads from 1st April. In regard to contingencies, all items appertaining thereto have been written back to their proper sub-heads.

The use of the "Works slip" has never been adopted in this Division. I have now ordered that the rules relating thereto shall be strictly observed in future. It is further stated that there are several works on which outlay has been incurred, but

but which, for periods varying for four months onwards, have been held in abeyance; in this connection, I submit that such objections have been frequently noticed in my remarks, in the register of works, which are duly communicated to sub. divisional officers for attention. In future, my remarks will be communicated in half margin to sub. divisional officers, so that they may return them with their reports as to what action they have taken. The absence of a book for road metal was, as I observe, noticed by the Inspecting officer in 1895; and the Executive Engineer of that time drew the attention of the sub. divisional officer, Nilgiris, to the Inspecting officer's remarks. No book, however, has since been started, but I have issued orders for one to be opened at once. The observations made in regard to the cash abstract and adjustment books are receiving attention. It is a fact, as noticed by the Examiner, that

that accounts and vouchers are received late from the sub. divisional offices, but now that each sub. division has two clerks, an improvement is to be expected.

3 As regards Rent lists and Audit Notes being in arrears, I beg to state that these objections have since been removed, for all rent lists have since been disposed of.

4 In regard to para 6, the Examiner did tell me that there were several points noted in the previous examination that had not received attention, but as he did not specify any one point, as far as I remember, it is difficult to fix the items to which he referred. The road metal and works slip question probably embrace two of the points, but what the remaining ones may be, I do not know. It did not strike me, when taking over charge of the Division in 1898, to enquire whether matters noticed by the

the Inspecting Accounts officer more than two years before, had received attention.

5 A proposition statement for the clerk required to arrange the records as specified in paras will be submitted.

6 As regards the allegation that the accounts of the Division are not on the whole in a satisfactory state, I beg to remind you of a long letter written by the Accountant last December, pointing out the impossibility of keeping work current with the then existing establishment, and which I sent you demi-officially, representing that, unless the additional clerk, previously applied for officially, could be sanctioned, the accumulation of arrears would be hopeless. Not only were there the three sub. Divisions, but the Aramalais, and the special executive charge at Ootacamund, were attached to this Division for accounts

accounts purposes without any additional establishment; consequently the work of Coimbatore Division became probably heavier than that of any other Division in the Presidency, and without having been raised to the standard of a 1st class. An extra accountant, Mr. Ryan, was sent in November, it is true, but, as is known to the Examiner, he was absolutely useless, and has since been transferred in consequence. Now, we have all the establishment we require. The Aramalais has been formed into a separate Division, and the special Executive charge at Ootacamund having been absorbed in the Nilgiri sub. Division, matters will move smoothly in future without doubt.

(True copy)

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No. 236
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Office of the Superintending Engineer,
FOURTH CIRCLE,
Coimbatore. 29th April 1899.

From A. H. Garrett Esq
Superintending Engineer,
Fourth Circle, Coimbatore.

To The Chief Engineer
P. W. S. Madras.

Enclosures. 1.

Copy of letter
from the Ex. Eng.
Coimbatore to

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the Executive Engineer's explanation called for in para 2 of G. O. No. 384 W. dated 7th February 1899. The Executive Engineer attributes the delay in its submission to the fact of his Accountant having mislaid the G. O.

2 Mr. Burtton has replied at length to the Examiner's remarks contained in para 4 of his report and I think the explanations afforded can be accepted.

3 It will be observed that there are no longer grounds for complaint

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complaining of the delay in dealing with Rent Lists and Audit notes.

4 With regard to the Examiner's remarks in para 6 of his report I think the Accountant is chiefly to blame.

5 Adverting to the remarks in para 6 of the Executive Engineer's letter I have to observe that in August 1898 I represented the necessity for affording the Executive Engineer extra assistance in his office and in September following the Division was made a first class one. The Executive Engineer still considered he had not a sufficient number of the clerks, but I informed him that as the conditions were precisely the same as they were when he applied to have the Division raised to the first class. I could not apply for an increase of establishment until sufficient time elapsed to show that the

establishment

establishment recently sanctioned was inadequate.

I have the honor to
Sir

Your most obedient servt

Ans. M. D.
Supg Engineer & Circle

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