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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Rubbie DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	890	Press Mis.
Dated	23-7-	18 67.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
23rd July 1867.

No. 229. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 11th July 1867, No. 2079.

Sanctioning a revised estimate of Rupees 2788 for the Post Office at Poothanoor, which has been completed. } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works Department, dated 11th July 1867, Nos. 283 & 284).

No. 230. ORDER THEREON, 23rd July 1867, No. 890.
Communicated to the Postmaster General.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Postmaster General.

Ezd. J. Tulloch.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th July 1867.*

No. 283. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coimbatore, 28th June 1867, No. 63 :—

1. I have the honour herewith to submit the revised estimate for the Post Office at Poothanoor, and comparative Statement, called for in the 1st paragraph of G. O. No. 1,987 of 25th June 1866. The delay that has arisen in

1 Original Estimate No. 1.
1 Revised do. „ 13.
1 Comparative Statement.

their submission was originally caused by the distrust in which I held all estimates of Coimbatore Range, in consequence of the utter ignorance of rates evinced by the correspondence and estimates alluded to in that order. I kept them back, therefore, to see whether the sum of Rupees 2,890 was likely to be exceeded in actual construction; and eventually lost sight of the reference till reminded of it in paragraph 5 of G. O. No. 1,008, of 1st April 1867.

2. I have only to remark that on comparison of Lieutenant-Colonel Moberly's final estimate of Rupees 2,890, herewith submitted, and which was actually carried out for Rupees 2,783, with Mr. George's estimate of Rupees 2,830, referred to him for report by my letter No. 57 of 2nd February 1866 (quoted in the abstract of correspondence), it is evident all trouble and unpleasantness would have been avoided by simple obedience to orders, and adoption of the cheaper material and lower estimate (which is forwarded for comparison). I can only account for Lieutenant-Colonel Moberly's extraordinary perversity in the matter, by his having given himself up into the hands of a certain contractor, who was working a brick-field for the department, and whose direct interest it was to have the original material of brick adhered to, with which view he long succeeded in-persuading Lieutenant-Colonel Moberly that good stone was not available at Poothanoor, as acknowledged in his letter No. 92 of 12th March 1866. I am satisfied that Lieutenant Trail's original estimate of Rupees 1,940 was much too low for work with good materials at Poothanoor, and that it was necessary to give the rates adopted by Mr. George, and by Lieutenant-Colonel Moberly after him.

No. 284. ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1867, No. 2,079.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 39.

1. The original estimate of Rupees 1,940 for the Poothanoor Post Office having proved inadequate, the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, in June 1866, forwarded revised estimates, providing respectively for the use of stone * in chunam and of brick † in clay, and at the same time submitted for consideration the correspondence which had passed upon the subject of those estimates between himself and Lieutenant-Colonel Moberly, the Officer then in charge of the Coimbatore Range.

* Estimate Rupees	2,830	as prepared by Mr. George.
„	2,890	„ Col. Moberly.
†	3,240	„ Mr. George.
„	3,780	„ Col. Moberly.

2. These papers came under review in Proceedings of the 25th June 1866, No. 1,987, in which the Government, expressing their displeasure at the differences which had arisen between the Superintending Engineer and his Range Officer,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th July 1867.*

pointed out that no explanation had been furnished of the necessity for the large increase to the original estimated cost of the building. The Superintending Engineer was accordingly called upon for a detailed revised estimate with a full report upon the causes of excess.

3. Colonel Walker complies with this requisition in his letter read at the head of these Proceedings, and from it the Government learn that notwithstanding the great rise which has taken place in prices since the original estimate was framed, ‡ the building has been completed at a cost of Rupees 2,788, being

‡ 1863. only Rupees 848 in excess of the original sanction, and about 1,000 Rupees below the amount which would have been necessary had brick in clay been employed. This result is owing to the use of stone, which Colonel Moberly erroneously believed was not procurable at Poothanoor, but which was actually purchased at comparatively low rates.

4. Under these circumstances the Controller is authorized to pass the expenditure incurred on the work in excess of the original estimate.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, with two Estimates and one Statement.

„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

„ Accountant General.

„ Public Department.

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- towards 1839 1839 for the
Post Office at 1839 1839
which has been completed

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With no reply

23 2 1839 No 890.
Domestic and civil & the
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for the Post Office General