

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1449

Press
~~Mis.~~

43-44

Dated 3 - 7 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd July 1862.*

No. 43. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department, dated 25th June 1862, No. 1,482:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. OUCHTERLONY, Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Centre Circle, to Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 3rd June 1862, No. 2.

SIR,

Letter from Mr. Rohde, dated 28th
May 1862, No. 275.
* 15th May 1862.

1. The accompanying letter from Mr. Rohde refers to Proceedings of Government* which have not been communicated to me, and I am therefore unable to understand why that gentleman has done me the honor to address me on the subject of which I conclude they treat.

2. I would however take advantage of this opportunity to ask Government if I rightly understand the object which they have in view in directing the administrators of Public Works affairs to submit plans and estimates of new works or improvements to the Departmental head concerned, before recommending their adoption to Government. That object I consider to be that the accommodation provided, the disposition and allotment of space made, the arrangements for light and ventilation, or the safeguard afforded, may be scrutinized and tested by those who are, by speciality, the most competent judges of the particular requirements which each individual case involves. But I have never understood that it was held to be a part of the duty of such critical authorities to revise the purely professional details of an estimate based upon a plan which met their approval. Suggestions as to improvements, or economy in arrangement or detail would invariably be accepted with thankfulness; but it has never occurred to me, during a long experience of the Department, to find these take the form of an authoritative endorsement in red ink upon the estimate of a professional Engineer, by a purely non-professional person, as was the case with the document submitted to Government with my letter No. 589, dated 15th May 1862.

3. Plans and estimates are continually submitted to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to the Venerable the Archdeacon, to the Board of Revenue and of Sudder Adalat, to the head of the Medical Department, &c., &c., and in returning them, approved or disapproved as the case may be, valuable and acceptable suggestions are frequently made. But I may safely say it would never occur to any one of these high authorities to adopt the course which Mr. Rohde has considered it his province to pursue; and which I think I may safely say he would view with high disapprobation if the case were reversed, and a Member of the Engineer Department were found recording objections across the face of a document in which his views, upon a subject purely of his own Department, were set forth.

From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. OUCHTERLONY, Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, dated Ootacamund, 28th May 1862, No. 275.

SIR,

1. I have had the honor to acknowledge the Proceedings of the Madras Government of the 15th instant, and to state that the estimate referred to in your letter to Colonel Horsley has my sanction with the understanding that the provisions made are conformed to.

2. It is no doubt expected that District Engineers should know what timber is suitable and what should be rejected, but my experience of the execution of works to be done "in jungle wood" render it necessary that when Officers neglect to specify what wood they intend using my sanction should be conditional.

3. The use of coal tar to the wood wherever it is in contact with masonry is required in all Jail buildings; it is of little consequence that the timber is cheap, if its renewal would be otherwise expensive and the low value of the timber to be preserved would not justify neglect of its preservation. I am not aware of having directed the use of 20 Rupees worth of coal tar. I know not what may be its value at present, and I left it to the District Engineer to estimate the quantity and include the same in our estimate.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd July 1862.*

* Communicated to Deputy Chief Engineers in Proceedings, dated 2nd June 1862, No. 1,215.

1. The Order quoted by Mr. Rohde in the letter submitted by the Deputy Chief Engineer is dated 23rd* and not 15th May, the latter being the date of Colonel Ouchterlony's letter on which that order was passed.

2. Colonel Ouchterlony has rightly explained the objects to be attained by the rule which requires that plans and estimates for projects should be submitted for the approval of the Departmental head concerned before being recommended to Government for sanction. The Government do not consider that the Inspector General of Jails or any other Departmental head is authorized to do more than offer such suggestions as may occur to him with respect to the plan submitted for approval, that is whether the accommodation provided is sufficient and suitable to the occasion. It is the duty of the professional Department to carefully scrutinize estimates and to take care that they provide for every thing requisite to ensure the work being carried out in an efficient manner.

3. It would be incompatible with his personal responsibility to Government, and out of keeping with his professional character were the District Engineer or other Departmental Officer to be required to revise the details of his estimates on the authority of a non-professional Officer, Civil or Military. Indeed, as contemplated by paragraph 71 of the Rules printed at page 591 of the C. O. Book, and by paragraph 12, chapter VI of the New Code, heads of Departments have simply to countersign the *plans* that are referred to them, in token of their "approval of the arrangements for the required accommodation." These remarks are likewise applicable to cases in which estimates for repairs only are referred to the Departmental head concerned; and when there is no plan, the countersignature of such head of a Department to the estimate is in token only of his acquiescence in the necessity of the repairs as explained in the specification or letter accompanying.

4. Mr. Rohde will be requested to discontinue the practice of enfacing estimates with remarks on professional details not falling within the scope of the order above quoted.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 44.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd July 1862, No. 1,419.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue, Director of Revenue Settlement, Superintendent of Revenue Survey and Conservator of Forests.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

Nov = 1862 (Vol 1)
No. of Govt for Albany
Nov = 1849.

Proceedings of the
Grand Jury in
the S. P. Court.

Vol 1 20th June
Received 27th 1862.

Nov 1862.

During the year we
letter from Dr. J. J. G.
D. C. complaining of the
practice of the High Court
of Justice of imposing costs
on the poor and on the
indigent and on the
incompetent and on the
details.

At 1449. 3rd July
written order

By 1449.

Ordered to be con-
municated to the Board
of Revenue. Director of
the S. P. Court, and the
Jury and the Court
of Justice.

Dr. J. J. G.
3rd July 1862.

At 1449. 3rd July
written order