M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-6-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2407 Press ~~Mis.~~

197-198

Dated 7- 9- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Ins

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th September 1866.

No. 197. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Passing orders on papers referring to some misapprehension on the part of the Collector of Malabar as to the relation in which the Members of the Public Works Department stand to the Municipal Commissioners of the towns which may be within their Ranges. } (Here enter 31st August 1866, No. 2,768.)

No. 198. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1866, No. 2,407.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 2,768.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Read the following papers:—

No. 717. From the Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 20th August 1866, No. 118.

1. I have the honor to forward enclosed for the orders of Government. On receipt of copy of Colonel Walker's letter to the Calicut Range Officer through the latter, I addressed Colonel Walker, and my communication must have crossed his (now enclosed) letter to me.

•From Superintending Engineer, dated 16th August 1866, No. 26, in original (for return).

I regret I have not copy of my Memorandam to him, but I expressed my opinion that the planning, estimating for, and supervising Municipal works, was now part of the regular duty of a Range Officer.

2. I presume the Municipalities must be looked to, to entertain proper *subordinate* agency for supervision; but it is quite impossible, as a general rule, that they can entertain Engineers of sufficient ability and standing to carry out works of importance without responsible professional supervision. This I am under the impression it is the Range officer's duty to give; and until I received the Superintending Engineer's letter, I did not know that there was any question but that the Range Officer could be called on by the Commissioners to plan, estimate for, and supervise the execution of any work as the person responsible for the due execution thereof.

3. I have applied to Colonel Walker for a Public Work Overseer for Calicut Municipality, on Rupees 60 per mensem, in anticipation of the Municipal Commissioners formally approving of the entertainment of such a servant, to be paid of course from the Municipal funds. But such a man cannot be trusted to plan or estimate for a work of any importance without more definite supervision than that which the Superintending Engineer apparently contemplates is all the Range Officer is to be allowed to give when his other duties permit.

4. I beg therefore that the orders of Government may be passed on the matter.

Transferred to the Department Public Works.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

22nd August 1866.

No. 718. From the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Camp, Coonoor, 21st August 1866, No. 118.

1. It has been mutually agreed by the Collector of Malabar and myself that it is desirable that the duties of Range Officers, in connection with Municipalities, should be defined by competent authority. Our views on the subject are so much opposed that we require to be instructed by Government as to what may be expected to be done for municipal works by the Officers, Subordinates, and Office Establishments of the Public Works Department.

2. The Calicut Range Officer lately reported to me that the Municipal Commissioners had sanctioned certain works, for which he stated that an extra Overseer and Accountant would certainly have to be added to his staff, if they were to be carried out by this Department. My reply was to the effect that neither his services nor those of any of his Subordinates were at the disposal of the Commissioners for planning, estimating, or executing any Municipal works. But that he might be expected to exercise such general supervision over any Overseer or Draughtsman they might entertain, as his proper duties would permit of his affording; taking care to have nothing more to do with the correspondence and accounts than any ordinary Member of the Committee.

3. The Collector, on the other hand, holds that the planning, general superintendence, estimating, and executing of Municipal works are amongst the duties of a Range Officer. That is, he conceives, that the Range Officer is bound to submit in due course any plans that the Commissioners may call for; and that he is responsible for the correctness of the estimates, and for general superintendence of the works while in progress. And he has made a requisition on me to place the sum of Rupees 3,000, sanctioned in G. O. of the Revenue Department, No. 1,981, of 17th August, at the disposal of the Range Officer, in addition to his other credits.

4. I am unable to conceive how officers under my orders are to be expected officially to plan and carry out and be responsible for works of which I have no information whatever, or how I can place at their disposal sums for which I myself have no credit. The Collector says, "no one knows better than I do how much "the Range Officers have to do, but that is not part of the present question." Whereas to me that is the point on which all my objections turn, viz., that the Malabar range charges are already too heavy to admit of Municipal works being added to them. So it will be with the Neilgherry range, when Municipalities are established at Ootacamund and Coonoor. From that already established for some time past at Coimbatore, no call has been made on this Department officially, though doubtless the Range Officer is an ex-officio Member of its Committee.

5. Government will please consider this question as laid before them in any thing but a controversial spirit. The Revenue and Public Works Departments co-operate in the 7th Division with perfect unanimity; the Range officer at Calicut has willingly done his duty as a Member of the Municipal Committee; and I myself am assisting the Collector to obtain an efficient Overseer for the Municipality works all we differ about is whether the services of the Public Works agencies are officially at the disposal of Municipalities.

No. 719. ORDER THEREON, 31st August 1866, No. 2,768.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 76.

It would appear from these papers that some misapprehension exists on the part of the Collector of Malabar as to the relation in which the Members of the Public Works Department stand to the Municipal Commissioners of the towns which may be within their Ranges. These officers have full occupation for their time and attention in the discharge of their own departmental duties, and being, in their executive capacities, entirely under the orders of the Superintending Engineers, it would be very inexpedient that their

services should be at the disposal of any other parties. At the same time, it will be the duty of the Range Officers to afford advice and assistance to the utmost possible extent to the Municipal Boards, and to take every opportunity of personally aiding them in supervising and carrying out their improvements, the accounts, &c., being left entirely in the hands of the Commissioners.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Malabar.
" Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
To all other Superintending Engineers.
To the Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Pro. 7 aug. 66 A-157-8

Rev - 1866. Dep. to Pro. of Govt. for September
W. 2911.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt. in the P. W. Dept.

Dated 31st. augt.
Received 3d. Septr. 1866.
W. 2768.

Passing orders on papers referring to cases on the file of the Board, in which apprehension as to the relations in which the members of the P. W. D. stand to the Municipal Commrs. of the towns may be within their Ranges. —

No 2407. 7 Septr.

W. Taylor Esq.

W. 2407.

Commr. to the Bd. of Rev.

7 Sept 66.

" 11 Copies to the Bd of Rev with Ord. 7 Sept 66
Pr Dr 2768 —

A. 197 + 198

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