M.R.O. 14–5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1781 — Press Mis.

41. 42

Dated 3 — 8 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1781

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3rd August 1867.

No. 41. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Communicating to Superintending Engineers, Resolution of Government of India defining the scope of functions to be performed by the Inspector General of Irrigation Works. } (Here enter 30th July 1867, No. 2,290.)

No. 42. ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1867, No. 1,781.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Revenue Board for the information of all Collectors.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 2,290.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 30th July 1867.

No. 702. Read the following Circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) dated Simla, 2nd July 1867, No. 60 :—

Functions of the Inspector General of Irrigation Works.

Read again :—

Public Works Department Resolution, No. 121—134½ E, dated 22nd January 1867.
Extract, Financial Department, No. 629, dated 31st January 1867.
Public Works Department Circular, No. 8 of 1867.

RESOLUTION.—Colonel Strachey, Inspector General of Irrigation Works, having joined the head-quarters of the Public Works Department, on the completion of his tour in the Bombay and Madras Provinces, the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council considers that it will be desirable to define, with somewhat greater precision than has hitherto been done, the scope of the functions which he will have to perform.

2. Although the Secretary in the Public Works Department is charged with the general conduct of the business transacted in that Department, it has been found necessary, owing to the increase of work, to divide the business into several branches, each under an Under or Assistant Secretary, or other Departmental head; and, further, it has been thought expedient to extend to the Officers in charge of some of the branches of the Public Works Department under the Government of India, special responsibilities and powers of action, which, though exercised under the general control of the Secretary, and, through him, of the Government of India, yet are in certain matters of detail more or less independent. In such a position are the Accountant General of the Public Works Department, the Inspector General of Military Works, the Inspector General of Forests; and to these now has been added the Inspector General of Irrigation.

3. The nature and degree of the independent responsibilities of these Officers differ, partly owing to the nature of the special duties, and partly owing to the objects for, and circumstance under, which the appointments were made. Thus the Accountant General is responsible for the accuracy of the opinions he submits on technical matters of account which come before the Government of India, into which, from the essentially complicated nature of the business, the Secretary can only enter on special occasions. But at the same time, the Accountant General has a large independent and discretionary power of action in dealing with minor questions of detail in connection with the Account branch of the administration of the Public Works Department. The Secretary could not transact the business of the department without thus being allowed to rest generally on the opinion of the responsible Officer in this branch, and being relieved of the necessity for dealing with matters of detail after principles have been settled by the Government of India. Again, the elaboration of the details of barrack accommodation, on the principles of sanitary science, involving as it does much attention and a high degree of special knowledge, could not be secured in a manner compatible with the exercise of a due general control of the department without the appointment of a special Officer; and business has been much facilitated by giving the Inspector General of Military Works authority to communicate independently with the Commander-in-Chief, and Public Works Departments of the several Local Governments, so as to be able to arrange details with those authorities previous to the submission of proposals to the Government of India.

4. There seem to be sufficient reasons for treating the office of Inspector General of Irrigation on similar principles. The spread of irrigation works, which the Government is now prepared to expedite, will involve the discussion of many questions of detailed arrangement, and the scrutiny of many projects, as in the case of the Military works; but with the important difference that, while all Military buildings are, as a rule, designed on fixed standard patterns, the irrigation works will, equally as a rule, be all various. Further, it will become necessary that some of the Local Governments which have hitherto had no experience in such works, shall be aided in arranging for the preparation of projects, and for providing the means for their execution; while it will be important that the difference of practice between the several Local Governments which have had such experience shall be examined into and reconciled. Moreover, this branch of the Public Works business will include the settlement of large administrative questions relating to the management of the irrigation works when executed, and to the system to be followed in the levy of the water-rates, both of which will involve considerations of a complicated and difficult nature. And while the case is thus peculiar, the proposed expenditure is much greater than in the case of Military works, and will require special treatment, in consequence of the exceptional manner in which a large portion of the funds will be provided, and of the necessity that arises for obtaining exact accounts of the profits that may be realized from the works when brought into operation.

5. It appears to the Governor General in Council, therefore, that while preserving the general control of the Secretary in the Public Works Department, it will be expedient to entrust considerable powers to the Inspector General of Irrigation; and the more so since the Officer who has been selected for the post is one who has held positions of high responsibility, and in whom the Government of India may place a special degree of confidence. The delegation of the proposed powers to the Inspector General of Irrigation Works will, it may be hoped, also serve to diminish the mass of business which otherwise would come before the Government of India, by facilitating the resort to personal conference, in preference to correspondence, in arranging with the Local Governments the preliminaries of matters to be finally submitted for the sanction of the Governor General in Council.

6. In conformity with the foregoing views, the Governor General in Council has been pleased to determine that the ordinary duty of the Inspector General will be to superintend the business arising from references regarding irrigation works, made by the various Local Governments and Administrations, which comes before the Government of India in the Public Works Department Secretariat. But the Government of India will also regard him as being directly and primarily responsible for bringing forward, on his own motion, any matters connected with the administration of irrigation works in India which he may consider to require the special attention of the Governor General in Council. It will be his particular province to take precautions against those delays which are apt to arise in dealing with important and complicated subjects, and the Government of India will be prepared to give him every needful support for the purpose of expediting the discussion of such questions, and the adoption of practical measures for the earliest possible extension of irrigation, in the manner and to the extent now contemplated by Her Majesty's Government.

7. While attached to the head-quarters of the Public Works Department of the Government of India, the Inspector General of Irrigation Works will exercise his functions as though he were an Under Secretary specially charged with the Irrigation branch of the department, and as such will, from time to time, and as occasion requires, sign despatches and orders of the Government of India.

8. The Inspector General of Irrigation Works also, at all times, on his own authority, may address the proper departments on subjects connected with his special duties, either in the way of making inquiry, or offering suggestions, but not for the purpose of giving orders, the issue of which will only take place under the immediate authority of the Government of India.

9. The Government of India will, from time to time, depute the Inspector General of Irrigation Works to make tours to various Provinces, either for the purpose of inspection, or of facilitating the settlement of projects for works, or of questions connected with the administrative duties of the department. Special instructions will be issued by the Government of India to guide the Inspector General during such tours; he will be held responsible for the due observance of all such instructions in his communications with Local Administrations, and, when occasion requires, will seek for further orders if any matter arises on which he shall have any doubt as to the intentions or wishes of the Government of India.

10. Subject to the foregoing limitations, the Inspector General of Irrigation Works, when on tour, may provisionally settle with the Local Government or Administration all questions brought before him which, under ordinary circumstances, would require a reference to the Government of India. If the Local Government or Administration and the Inspector General concur, the conclusions adopted shall be recorded and submitted at once by the Local Government or Administration to the Government of India for ratification. The Government of India reserves to itself the power of giving sanction to all proposed new projects or expenditure beyond the regular powers of the Local Governments or Administrations, as well as to all increases of establishment or of salaries, but in all other matters on which the Local Government or Administration and the Inspector General shall concur, immediate action may be taken if thought expedient. If a difference of opinion arises, the points at issue shall be submitted by the Local Government or Administration to the Government of India for decision, and the question remain in abeyance until such decision shall be signified.

11. In like manner, the Inspector General of Irrigation, when on tour, may bring forward for discussion with the Local Government or Administration, any matter not contained in his instructions which seems to him to call for such treatment, and the Government of India will hope that every proper facility will be given by the Local authority for the discussion of such matters. The assent of the Local Government or Administration to any proposal of the Inspector General, shall authorize immediate action, as explained in the former paragraph, and any difference of opinion shall be similarly referred for the decision of the Government of India.

12. The Local Governments and Administrations may, at their discretion, empower any officer of the Irrigation Department, not lower in rank than a Superintending Engineer, to accompany the Inspector General of Irrigation on his tours, and, if they think fit, to authorize him to exercise in their behalf powers

analogous to those vested by these rules in the Inspector General in behalf of the Government of India.

13. The Government of India will further be prepared to give every facility for the personal and oral discussion of questions of importance relating to irrigation matters, by assenting to the deputation, to the head-quarters of the Public Works Department of the Government of India, from any Local Government or Administration, of an Officer duly instructed to discuss and arrange the details of any important project or proposal with the Inspector General of Irrigation, on the principles above laid down, so that the issue of final orders by the Government of India may be expedited as far as possible. The present improved means of communication will, in the belief of the Government of India, often admit of this mode of procedure being attended with much saving of time and laborious correspondence.

14. As was before declared, the Government of India will continue to reserve to itself the power of giving sanction to irrigation projects, the estimated cost of which shall exceed the limits of the authority of the Local Governments or Administrations as now fixed. But in the event of any large project or system of works being generally sanctioned by the Government of India on an approximate estimate, the Inspector General of Irrigation Works, under such general or special instructions as shall be given him, will be authorized to settle, in behalf of the Government of India, with the local Departmental Officers, the detailed designs for the works, and the specific sums to be allotted for them; it being understood that all such designs brought forward for detailed approval shall have been first examined and approved by the Local Governments or Administrations in the regular course. All arrangements come to under the authority thus given shall at once be reported to the Government of India for confirmation.

15. In acting under the above rule, the Inspector General of Irrigation Works, and the head of the local Irrigation Department, will be held responsible that the detailed sanctions shall not in the aggregate exceed the entire sum originally sanctioned by the Government of India for the project in question, and whenever a doubt shall arise on this subject, the Inspector General of Irrigation shall be bound to refer to the Government of India for orders.

ORDER.—Ordered that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the several Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R. A.,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 703. ORDER THEREON. 30th July 1867. No. 2,290.

IRRIGATION, No. 32.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers.

(True Extract.)

Major, R. E.,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers,
,, Revenue Department.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev. 1867. Depart.
Pro of Court for Augt.
No. 2041.

Proceedings in the
P. W. Department —

Dated 30th July.
Received 31st / 1867
No. 2290.

Communicating
to Supdg Engr. Resolution
of Govt of India defining
the scope of functions to
be performed by the In-
spector General of Irri-
gation Works.

No. 1781. 8 Augt.

With Order

No. 41-42
41-42