

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1346

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 14 - 5 - 1886

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th May 1868.*

No. 335. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on Board's Proceedings relative
to Progress Reports as at present furnished
by Department Public Works, and directing
that the practice of furnishing the Civil
authorities with copies of Range Progress
Reports be reverted to. (Here enter 9th May 1868, No. 1,471.)

No. 336. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1868, No. 1,346.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Under Secretary to Government.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th May 1868.*

No. 250. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th April 1868, No. 2,760:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated on Circuit at Tambracheri, 16th January 1868, No. 14 A:—

Proceedings of Government and G. O., dated 13th March 1867, No. 759.

Do. do. 9th August 1867, No. 2,430.

Do. Board of Revenue, dated 17th October 1867, No. 6,784.

* *Vide* Enclosures Nos. 1 and 2.

† *Vide* Enclosure No. 3.
(Enclosures to be returned.)

1. Adverting to the correspondence noted, I have the honor to submit specimens of the Progress Reports* of Imperial works that used to be received by Collectors from the Department of Public Works, and a specimen of those† that are prescribed and often received now.

No doubt it is desirable to reduce the office work of Ranges to the utmost, but I think it must be conceded that the small amount of relief afforded to Range Officers, by the substitution of abstract for detailed reports, is too dearly purchased, if it is to be purchased by the loss, to the Collector of a district, of the only precise and systematic information he can get regarding the progress of works in his charge.

2. Through the courtesy of the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, the old form of report on Imperial works has been generally continued in some ~~of the districts~~ ^{of the districts} by the abstract form is the one prescribed. But supposing the prescribed form had been adopted in Enclosures Nos. 1 and 2, I, as Collector and Magistrate, should have had no means of knowing from it whether the expenditure on Civil Buildings represented progress in one of my own Cutcheries to completion, or had been incurred on a District Jail, a Moonsiff's Court, a Post-office, or any other building that happened to be sanctioned for the year; or whether the expenditure under Communications represented work on a low country road, a Wynaad pass, a bridge, (perhaps the only link wanting to open an important line of communication to cart-traffic,) or any other individual work; surely this is not as it should be.

3. I proposed a form of Progress Report, in my letter to the Board noted, 23rd July 1867, No. 164, which has been recorded in their Proceedings, dated 17th October last, No. 6,784; but if the form prescribed for Local Funds in Circular Order No. XXXV of 1867, is preferred, I venture to advocate strongly that a second column be opened under (b) ^{for the year} ~~for the year~~ expenditure incurred on an estimate in progress on the 1st January of the preceding year. Also that a column be opened for ^{the year} ~~the year~~ remarks be full, and of the character indicated in my letter ^{of the 23rd July 1867} ~~of the 23rd July 1867~~ of this paragraph.

The ^{form} ~~form~~ in Enclosure No. 4.

Specific information should be afforded the Officer in charge of the administration of a district, regarding the progress of ^{all} ~~all~~ public works ^{in the district} ~~in the district~~ with ^{the} ~~the~~ sure; be allowed.

I think that, if the above form be adopted, it will be a more ^{reforming} ~~reforming~~ than he has a right to look for, considering what his duties are and the

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9th May 1868.*

public expect of him. I trust, therefore, the Board will see fit to urge that the form be adopted for both Imperial and Local Fund Progress Reports, and that it be regularly submitted monthly for both description of works, with printed forms supplied from the Collector's Offices to the Range Officers, filled with all standing entries before issue; no unnecessary work, and I do not think any excessive work, will be thrown on the Range Officers by the requisition.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 4.—Progress Report Forms. 2981

1. Submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.
2. The Board observe that, on the representation of the Controller of Public Works Accounts, the old form of monthly Progress Reports has been ordered* to be discontinued, an abstract of the same being substituted for both the Imperial and Local Fund Works.
3. In Government Order, Public Works Department, dated 9th August 1867, No. 2,430, a revised form of monthly Progress Report was ordered to be adopted, in the case of Local Fund Works only, to which an extra column was added agreeably to the orders marginally noted.
4. Mr. Ballard now encloses* a form of Progress Report, which he recommends for adoption for both Imperial and Local Fund Works. As the form is precisely the same as that formerly received by Collectors from the Public Works Department, and as it will keep them informed of the actual progress, &c., of the works, the Board request that orders may be issued in the Public Works Department, for the Range Officers to furnish the Collectors with the monthly Progress Reports in the proposed form from the commencement of 1868-69, for works to be executed from the Imperial and Local Fund Works.
5. The Board consider it of great importance that Collectors should have full information of the progress of Public Works in their Collectorates. The present forms merely show the gross monthly expenditure under each head, without any specification of the works on which the money has been expended, and are, therefore, useless for administrative purposes.

Transferred to the Department Public Works for disposal.

(Signed) W. HUDESTON,
Secretary to Government.

1st April 1868.

No. 251.

ORDER THEREON, 9th May 1868, No. 1,471.

ACCOUNT, No. 18.

1. In consideration of the expediency of relieving Range Officers, as much as possible, of the clerical work devolving upon them, the Government were induced in March 1867 to approve of a suggestion made by the Controller of Public Works Accounts for requiring those Officers to furnish the Civil and Military authorities with abstracts only of their

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9th May 1868.*

Progress Reports instead of with copies of the Reports themselves, and subsequently upon a representation from the Board of Revenue that those abstracts were not in sufficient detail, His Excellency in Council directed that in the case of District roads and works sanctioned from Local Funds for execution under the Agency of the Public Works Department, the information required by the Collectors should be furnished in a more comprehensive form.

2. In the papers read at the head of these proceedings, the Board of Revenue, in submitting a letter from the Collector of Malabar with respect to the forms now in use, advocate a return to that in which the reports of progress were originally furnished as the present forms, which merely show the gross monthly expenditure under each head without specifying the works on which the money has been spent, are practically useless for administrative purposes. It is urged that the relief which it is sought to afford Range Officers by the substitution of abstracts for detailed reports is trifling compared with the importance of the chief Revenue authority being furnished with precise and systematic information regarding the state of the progress of all works in his district.

3. On re-consideration, the Government are disposed to modify their Orders of the 13th March 1867, No. 750, and they direct that the practice of furnishing the Civil authorities with copies of Range Progress Reports be reverted to.

(True Extract.)

W. H. Hudson

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Superintending Engineers.
„ Revenue Department.
To Captain Kennedy.
To the Military Department.

Ed. S. T. ...

RECORDED

16-9-1897

Revenue 1868. D. 1/4
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Spout. B. 1706/1717

Noted 94-3 May
Received 11-4-1868

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