M.R.O. 1—39,000—15-10-28.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2045 Press
His.

325-26
Dated 16-12-1870 19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th December 1870.

No. 325. Read the following Endorsement of the Inspector-General of Forests in the Public Works Department, (Revenue—Forests,) dated Simla, 21st July 1870, No. 384-F. :—

COPY of the following forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, with reference to letter from that Government, No. 807, dated 3rd June 1870, with a request to be favoured with an early and comprehensive report, explaining the necessity for granting a monthly consolidated travelling allowance to Forest Overseers.

(By Order.)

(Signed) D. BRANDIS,
Inspector-General of Forests.

Proceedings of the Government of India, Financial Department, dated 30th June 1870, No. 1,646.

Read the under-mentioned papers:—

FINANCIAL Department Resolution, No. 1,897, dated 10th July 1869, inquiring why the Government of Madras were of opinion that the ordinary rules for allowances for actual travelling only were not sufficient to meet the cases of the Overseers of Annamallay and Chenat Nair forests, for whom a consolidated travelling allowance of Rupees 30 each per mensem had been recommended.

2. Public Works Department endorsement, No. 307-F., dated 16th June 1870, on a letter from the Government of Madras, explaining that the "ordinary rules" abovementioned have never been adopted in the Forest Department in Madras.

OBSERVATIONS.—The Governor-General in Council observes that the Madras Government, in their communication now forwarded by the Public Works Department, have given no *reasons* for considering monthly travelling allowances necessary for the Forest Department in the Madras Presidency, but simply state the existing usage and deprecate alteration.

2. The inconvenience of monthly travelling allowance is, however, considerable, and it appears to have been manifested in this very case, out of which the correspondence has originated; for it is not easy to understand how officers for whom no travelling allowance at all was thought necessary one month should be entitled next month, without any apparently radical change of duty, to an allowance of 30 per cent. and 40 per cent. on their salaries. It appears to this department desirable that the Madras Government should justify more particularly the concession of fixed monthly travelling allowances to the officers of the Forest Department, bearing in mind that such allowances are deemed, as a rule, contrary to sound principle.

ORDER.—Ordered that the foregoing observations be sent to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) R. H. HOLLINGBERY,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
16*th December* 1870.

No. 326.

No. 2,045.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Forests, No. 9.

SIR,—Referring to the Proceedings of the Government of India in your department, dated 21st July 1870, No. 384-F., requesting to know why this Government consider fixed monthly travelling allowances for forest subordinates preferable to the alternative system of payment for actual travelling, I am directed to explain that this Government consider consolidated allowances preferable to a daily rate drawn only during absence from head-quarters, in all cases where the duties of the officer entail so much moving about in their ordinary performance as to necessitate the permanent retention of a travelling equipment and the means of locomotion.

2. In the forest tracts in this Presidency the means of conveyance cannot generally be procured as required, and those Overseers who have to travel much are consequently obliged to keep ponies, etc., throughout the year for the purpose.

3. There is no difficulty in determining what officers come within this category, and this is done by the Government who, in every case, sanction the grant of the allowance, and fix its rate with reference to the circumstances of each office. The rates vary from Rupees 10 to Rupees 30 monthly, and are as moderate as is consistent with the principle, that while the recipient shall be fairly reimbursed all proper expenses, the allowance shall not be a source of profit. The scale, of course, is, to a certain extent, arbitrary, but applied as it is by this Government with due regard to the circumstances of each case, it is far less arbitrary than the Bengal plan of giving each officer four-tenths of his salary, without reference to any circumstances whatever, save the amount of that salary.

4. One very great advantage of the Madras system in these cases is, the saving of correspondence and accounting. If a daily rate be introduced, each Overseer will have to send in a monthly bill, claiming the allowance, which will have to be duly calculated, audited, etc., before it can be passed.

5. Situated as most of our Forest Overseers are in isolated tracts, it would be difficult to prevent over-charges; and the inducement to make them, as well as to be constantly on the move, merely in order to draw the allowance, and so to meet, as far as they can, the expenses of the travelling equipment, which they must, in the circumstances of their position, constantly keep up, should not be held out.

6. Under the present system, these objections do not exist. The forest officer takes care that his Overseers move about as much as duty requires, and all the correspondence, contest, check, etc., which the drawing of daily travelling allowances entails are saved.

7. As regards the particular case which led to this correspondence, I am to point out that there was a "radical change of duty," because the extension of operations in the Annamallay and Chenat Nair forests now entails constant travelling which was not formerly the case.

8. In the neighbouring Nellambur and Wynaad Districts, the Overseers are not given travelling allowances, because their duties do not require them to travel.

9. This Government request that matters may be left as they are, and direct me to assure the Government of India that the powers vested in them over their Forest Department, by the Secretary of State's despatch,* are exercised with the utmost care and consideration.

* Dated 6th October 1864, No. 42.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

Extd. F. R. Pantulu.

Public Works 1870 Department.

[ ]

From Government of

Fort St. George.

Dated 16th December. } No. 2,043.
R. } Enclosures
0 spare copies.

D. No.
L. No. Progs. { *D.* / *No.*

FORWARDING explanation as to why this Government consider fixed travelling allowances for Forest Overseers preferable to the alternative system of payment for actual travelling.

I do not think we need go to the Conservator of Forests on this point.

I would tell the Govt of India that in pursuance of "monthly consolidated travelling allowances" is preferable to a daily rate, drawn only during absence from Head Quarters, when the duties of the office necessarily entail to remain moving about in this or that way for some days as to necessitate the keeping a record to certain of a travelling agent. Most of the necessity of keeping such a record, the necessity of carrying a camp & the necessity of camping out, would be obviated by the proposed consolidated allowance. The Overseers & the Govt would be equally benefited by this & the extra pain to for the purpose all through the year. There is no difficulty in determining & let this case come within this category and this is done by the Govt in many cases

sanction the grant of the allowance & also fix its rate with reference to the circumstances of each office. The rates range from Rs 10 to Rs 30 – and are ~~[illegible]~~ as moderate as is consistent with the principle that while the recipient should be fairly re-imbursed all his expenses, the allowance shall not be a source of profit. The scale of course is to a certain extent arbitrary – but applied, as it is by this plan ~~[illegible]~~ with due regard to the peculiar circumstances of each case, it is far less arbitrary than the Bengal plan of giving each officer 4/10th of his salary without ~~[illegible]~~ reference to any circumstance whatever save the amount of salary. ~~[illegible]~~ Another great advantage of the Madras system in these cases is the saving of correspondence & accountancy – If a daily rate be introduced each overseer will have to send in a monthly bill claiming the allowance which will have to ~~[illegible]~~ be duly calculated audited &c. Situated ~~[illegible]~~ as most of our Forest Overseers are in isolated tracts it will be difficult to prevent overcharges and the inducement to make them as well as ~~[illegible]~~ to be constantly moving about merely to draw the allowance ~~it~~ (& so meet as far as they can the expenses of the travelling equipment which they must in the circumstances of their position constantly keep up) should not be held out – Under the present system these objections do not exist: the Forest Officer ~~are removed~~ takes care that his overseers move about as much as duty requires and all the correspondence, contest & check which the drawing of daily travelling allowances entails are saved.

Where on the other ~~[illegible]~~ hand an officer has only to travel occasionally a daily rate is preferable.

the rate being fixed according to circumstances.

I am not aware on what principle the scale of 4/10th of an officer's salary was fixed - in many cases it would not be possible for the Resident, or the Officer of travelling stories in different parts of the country - and if such a principle be adopted a revision of the rates would be necessary.

With regard to para 2 of the letter I would find out that there was "a radical change of duty" in the case referred to. In what the "Operation" of the Scheme put the person affected by this fact is greater or not than others who had a considerable amount of travelling - while the allowance was with-held from the officers at Headquarters in the Way would he consider they are not called upon to travel. That the travelling allowances are in some cases higher as compared with the salaries, owing to the latter being too low. I would refer to the fact that Native officers are often as they are, allowing them out the powers vested in them over their Treasury Officers both as regards cash and [illegible]

for
Enclosure
Letter

Is not there an influence
beyond what was contemplated
in the despatch from the Secretary of
State for India on the subject
of the Hindustan Front Dept. in reference
to the G.G.O.C. of the 2nd of July?

6R

C.I. to the Commander
of Forces who will
be good enough to
submit the "confidential
report" desired by the
Govt of India at an
early date

RH

The Hon'ble
Sir Seton
Circulate

26 Aug 70 Reg. Recd
Exp. 26 Aug

16th Decr 70

From
y Copies sent by

No. 2045.

To

The Secretary to the Govt of India
Public Works
Financial Department

Sir,

Referring to the
Proc.s of the Govt of India
in your Dept.t dated 21st
July 1870, No. 3044 F., re-
questing to know whether
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dinates preferable to the
alternative system of
payment for actual
travelling, I am directed
to explain that the
Govt consider consolidated
allowances

1085

See 2 enter-further a.

A/A

allowances preferable
to a daily rate drawn
only during absence
from Head quarters, ie
all cases where the duties
of the officer entail so
much moving about
as their ordinary per-
formance or to necessitate
the permanent retention
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and the means of locomotion
2.— In the Forest tracts
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and the overseers who
have to travel much,
are consequently obliged
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out the year for the
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3. There is no difficulty
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by the Govt who in
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the grant of the allowance
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to the circumstances
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rates vary from Rs. 10
to

to Rs. 30 monthly, and
are as moderate as is
consistent with the principle
that while the recipient
shall be fairly reimbursed
all proper expenses,
the allowance shall
not be a source
of profit. the scale
of course must contain
some what arbitrary,
but applied as it is
by the Government
with due regard to the
circumstances of each
case, it is far less
arbitrary

I would like it, if my colleagues agree. I think it may not strengthen our case - it may weaken their. & there is really some thing to be said in favour of treating travelling charges by ten the of salaries! I should like to see it.

arbitrary than the Bengal plan of giving each officer $\frac{4}{10}$ of his salary without reference to any circumstances whatever save the amount of that salary.

4. One very great advantage of the Madras system in these cases is the saving of correspondence and account-ing. If a daily rate be introduced each overseer will have to send in a monthly bill claiming the allowance, which will have to be duly calculated, audited &c before it can be passed.

Initiated

5. Situated as most of our Forest Overseers are, at isolated tracks, it would be difficult to prevent over charges, and the inducement to make them, as well as to be constantly on the move merely in order to draw the allowance and so to meet as far as they can, the expenses of the travelling equipment which they must in the circumstances of their position constantly keep up, should not be held out

6. Under the present system these objections do not exist - The Forest officer takes care that his overseers move about as much as duty requires, and all the correspondence, check etc which the drawing of daily travelling allowances entails are saved.

7. As regards the particular case which led to this correspondence, I am to point out that there was

was a "radical change of duty"; because the extension of operations in the Annamallay and Chenat Nair hills now entails constant travelling which was not formerly the case.

8 In the neighbouring Pollambur and Nygad districts, the overseers are not given travelling allowances because their duties do not require them to travel.

9. The Govt request that matters may be left as they are, and direct me to assure the Govt of India that the powers vested in them over their Forest Department by the Secretary of State's despatch are exercised with the utmost caution.

+ Dated 6 Oct. 1862 No 62

The number & date should be given — It is the one in which we referred the assumption of authority over waste lands by Govt in the hills — But I have no doubt the last bit being left at any rate it appears —

A second thought I think it had better be omitted. I would rather retain it.

I think it need not be omitted