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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	55	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17-4-1963	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 675. Read the following letter from the District Engineer, Chingleput, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Guindy, 4th March 1873, No. 81.

In reply to G. O., No. 110, dated 12th February 1873, I have the honour

1 Letter from the Assistant Engineer, Chingleput Range, No. 1564, dated 27th February 1873.

1 Letter from the Head Accountant, Chingleput Range.

to enclose letters, in original, from the Officer in charge of Chingleput Range, and his Accountant, and in support beg respectfully to submit remarks which appear to me to show that due con-

sideration has not been given to the position of the Chingleput District.

2. It has been placed in the 3rd class, and the establishment assigned in Appendix A. of the Imperial Budget is one of the smallest in the Presidency; on the other hand, from the table in section 19, G. O., No. 437, dated 10th February, it will be seen that the allotments for expenditure are second only to those of the Godavery, and exceed by Rupees 70,000 the grants made to the Kistna, whose total stands third.

3. The revenue of the district, though small as compared with several other districts, is obtained from a very poor soil, supplied from a large number of irrigation works, the banks of which, made of very light earth, require constant care and attention. This is admitted by Government, inasmuch as the grant for irrigation repairs is the fifth in amount in the Presidency, and will most probably require to be increased for the maintenance of the large tanks now nearly completed.

4. Six rivers flow through the district, beside several smaller channels, all of them in ordinary years very little below their banks. Four large and several 2nd class tanks supply considerable areas of irrigated land. Three anicuts across the Cortiliar and one across the Cocum assist in distributing the water.

Narnaveram River.	Adyar.
Cortiliar.	Palar.
Cocum.	Cheyar.
Cholaveram.	Chembrumbakum.
Red Hills.	Carungooly.

5. All these works have suffered severely from the cyclone in May last and the heavy monsoon. Three of the anicuts have been turned by the water rising above the wing-walls and breaching the banks of the rivers in large gaps. For these extraordinary repairs or improvements I hope to have received additional officers.

6. I have further to construct and repair military buildings in three Cantonments. My allotment for New Works under this head is second only to that for Bangalore, under Repairs to only the Presidency and Bangalore.

7. During the current year difficulties have arisen from the changes in organization of the department, the nature of which was unknown till just as they were put in force, and from alterations in ranges which apparently are not even now final. In May last the Chembrumbakum tank, which had been under a separate officer, was placed under the Mount Range Officer, who in August last received further the irrigation works and several roads in Sydapet Taluq.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th March 1873.*

The Chingleput Range was amalgamated with the Madranticum Range, but no addition was made to the Office of the Accountant.

8. I have surrendered considerable amounts, and fear that I shall have to give up still more, not for want of labour, but because my establishment cannot estimate for the many works urgently needed, or measure those executed.

9. I would further point out that my Local Fund expenditure must bear comparison with that of most districts. I have not their Budget by me, but I have large grants and numerous roads, and have lately received authority to push on the bridge over the Cortiliar from a loan for Rupees 1,05,420, and expect shortly orders for the completion of another bridge over the Palar.

10. We have also in this district to supervise the heaviest expenditure, I believe in the Presidency, on salt works; and to construct a bridge to connect two platforms at a cost of Rupees 27,600.

11. The East Coast Canal Extension has also been entrusted to me in G. O., No. 274, of 28th January 1873.

From R. J. LOWRY, Esq., Assistant Engineer, Chingleput Range, to the District Engineer, Chingleput, dated Camp at Karam, 27th February 1873, No. 1,564.

ACKNOWLEDGING the receipt of Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 110, dated the 12th February 1873, forwarded with your endorsement as per margin, in which I am

instructed to report the cause of the Range Accounts for the month of December not having reached the Controller of Public Works Accounts by the 1st of February, I have the honour to forward enclosed a letter from the Range Accountant in reply to a memorandum of mine on this subject. He is mainly responsible for the accounts being furnished in proper time, as I could not be expected to exercise more than a general supervision in the matter, when absent as I am at least twenty days in every month, and even when at head-quarters having a great deal of other work to do.

2. I can fully endorse what the Accountant says as to the Deputy Accountant being without experience in the account branch, and hence is yet but little assistance to him, and I can also say that he (the Accountant) is at work late and early, and seldom or never can take leave even on a Sunday.

3. The accounts for December reached me at Karingooly in the Madranticum Taluq on the 28th of last month, and after signature were, at the request of the Accountant, returned to the Range Office, and it would appear were despatched hence on the 30th ultimo.

4. I would ask that I be allowed to employ an extra writer to assist in the account branch of my office until the press of extra work caused by the cyclone of May and the floods of November and February has been got through.

5. In order that you may judge of the quantity of work to be done by my office people, I would ask you to look into the Progress Report of this range; you will observe that it consists of 120 pages of closely written matter, and of this bulky document four copies are required to be made out monthly, one each for the District Engineer, the Controller, the Collector, and an office copy; in addition to this two copies of the Local Fund Progress Report are required, one for the President and one for the Vice-President of the Local Fund Board, in all 516 pages to be copied month by month. This alone, with the number of other account forms, take up the time of the Deputy Accountant for nearly the whole month, leaving him no time to assist the Accountant in the accounts proper.

6. There are some 320 works in progress in the range, and, although the expenditure on each is not large, the accounts in each case are equally troublesome, and take up as much time as if the entries were in thousands.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th March 1873.*

7. I believe that if the Accountant were an exceptionally smart man he might, working as many hours as he now does, get the accounts sent in time, but although painstaking and very hardworking he is not particularly clever.

8. I need hardly add that, under the circumstances narrated here, I see no reason to hope for improvement in the future as to the time at which the accounts will be ready for submission, unless I am allowed another writer as a temporary measure, until the greater number of the damaged irrigation works are repaired. I beg respectfully to assure the Government that I have already repeatedly put all the pressure I could fairly use on my office people, and render them every assistance in order that the accounts should be sent up on the appointed dates, but without avail, as, although willing, they have been unable to manage to prepare them in time.

No. 676. ORDER THEREON, 28th March 1873, No. 965.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 71.

UNDER the special circumstances reported by the District Engineer of Chingleput, His Excellency the Governor in Council will not object to the classification of that district as second class during the period that the Chenbrumbaukum and Red Hill Projects remain in hand, and the scale of salaries of a second class office may accordingly be drawn from the 1st proximo till further orders. But inasmuch as this increase gives no addition of strength, but merely of pay, the Mount Range Office will be augmented to a strength corresponding with that allowed for the Salary Range, from the date on which the special establishment for the Coast Canal is dispensed with. The increase of the Seerulur Range Office Establishment dating from the same period.

2. Adverting to a statement in Mr. Lowry's letter, it will be remitted for consideration in the Financial and Revenue Departments whether one copy of a Range Progress Report submitted to the Collector of a district is not quite as much as need be supplied, that copy containing the Progress Report of Local Funds and enabling the Collector to supply himself as President of the Local Fund Board with such extracts as may be required by himself and the Vice-President.

(True Exact.)

*Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.*

To the District Engineer, Chingleput.
.. Revenue Department
.. Financial do.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

77-55

17c. Apr 1/73

Refuse Copies

Memorandum

No. 970

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To.

DISTRICT ENGINEER, CHINGLEPUT.

cc. cc. cc.

Dated March 28th.

Recd. *4*

Encl.

G. O., 28th March 1873, No. 965.

LC

MARCH

Nos. 675-676

do 675 17 April 1873

*See above
as per
for account kept
in this*

Accounts.—Passing orders on letters from the District Engineer, Chingleput, submitting explanation of the cause of delay in the submission of accounts of No. 3 Range, and remarking on the classification of the ranges in the district.

With order