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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS**Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

19.

~~Press~~~~B.P. No.~~

Mis.

Dated

3. 11. 1874. — 196 ..

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th October 1874.*

No. 635. Read the following letter from Colonel E. A. FOORD, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Bellary, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 24th September 1874, No. 959:—

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the sanction of Government, a comparative statement for the work "improvements to the bungalow at Pennacondah to convert it into a residence for the Head Assistant Collector."

2. An estimate of Rupees 4,650 was sanctioned for this work in G. O., No. 142, (Miscellaneous,) dated 17th May 1872, but funds were only provided in the following year under G. O., No. 1,999, dated 12th August 1873.

3. The net excess over the original estimate now requiring sanction is Rupees 569, or 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Explanation is given in the column of remarks opposite each item in the statement, but the excess is principally due to an increased quantity of masonry in the foundations and increased rate for masonry and teakwood.

4. The building is on a slope, and the foundation has been raised at one end 2 feet above the ground. The extra height should have been given to the basement and not to the foundation, and should have been ascertained when the plan and estimate were being prepared. Mr. Haddock, the late Range Officer, reported that there is no skilled labor in the Pennacondah Range, and workmen have to be brought from a distance, and hence rates are high. But he did not report, what I have since ascertained, that the Contractor for this work is also Contractor for the new Cutcherry at the same place, also for a bridge, a choultry, and a new road in other parts of the district.

It is impossible that one man can look after so many works. He is obliged to entrust them to his agents, and then complains that the rates are insufficient. Mr. Haddock during the progress of the work promised him higher rates than those in the estimate, viz., the rates now prevalent in the range. Mr. Haddock took no written agreement from the Contractor, who, moreover, had been employed under him in the Cuddapah District, where the Contractor's work was not at all satisfactory. The bridge and the chuttrum have recently been taken out of the Contractor's hands, and these works are being carried out departmentally.

5. The current year's allotment for the Head Assistant's bungalow is Rupees 1,300, and in anticipation of sanction of an additional allotment the work is being carried out to completion.

No. 636. ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1874, No. 3,084.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 47.

G. O., No. 1,999, dated 12th August 1873.
" " 1,943, " 20th July 1874.

With the above letter the Superintending Engineer, Bellary, forwards a comparative statement showing that the expenditure on the improvements to a bungalow at Pennacondah, to convert it into a residence for the Head Assistant Collector, will amount to Rupees 5,219, showing an excess of Rupees 569 over the original estimate sanctioned in G. O., No. 142 of the 17th May 1872.

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2. The principal items of increase are under the heads of "masonry in chunam" and "teakwood wrought and put up." The larger outlay being attributed to unforeseen depth of foundations and to necessary increase of rates.
3. The District Engineer shows that the arrangements made by the Range Officer for the construction of the building were injudicious. The work was entrusted to a Contractor who had already on his hands more than he could properly look after, and who consequently had to employ paid agents for supervision. No written agreement was entered into, but the understanding seems really to have been that the Contractor was to carry out the necessary alterations for a lump sum representing the amount of the estimate less the allowance for sundries and superintendence.
4. Naturally the cost of agency reduced the Contractor's profits, and the Range Officer seems to have readily acceded to his demands for "increased rates," or, more properly speaking, for an increase to the lump sum for which he originally agreed to execute the work.
5. The system adverted to of giving out work on contract for a lump sum has on other occasions been attended with unsatisfactory results, and the Government entirely disapprove of it. In this instance the ordinary precaution of recording on papers the conditions of the agreement were not even taken.
6. Under the actual circumstances, His Excellency in Council must sanction the revised estimate, but he fully approves of the action of the Superintending Engineer in taking out of the same Contractor's hands and executing departmentally the other works referred to in his letter under notice.
7. It is observed that an additional allotment of Rupees 569 will be required during the current year to complete the building reported on, which will be provided from savings hereafter.

(True Extract.)

C. S. S. S. Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Bellary.
,, Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

20 Spare Copies *will be sent to the*

No 3828
Revenue (574) Dept.
Govt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

BELLARY.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated, October 29th.

Recd. Nov 3^d Encl.

G. O., 29th October 1874, No. 3,084.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 635 636

Bungalow at Pennacondah in Bellary District.—The revised estimate for improvements to the bungalow to convert it into a residence for the Head Assistant Collector, sanctioned with remarks; the system of giving out work on contract for a lump sum disapproved, and the action of the Superintending Engineer in taking out of the Contractor's hands certain other works and executing them departmentally, approved.

No 19.
Communicated to
the Board of Revenue
3 Nov. 74. Yll

14. To the D. of P. & C. Secy. to Govt. of Madras