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Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.G.O. No. 958 95 Press
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Dated 18.4.1874.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th April 1874.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 112. From Colonel E. A. FOORD, R.E., Inspecting Engineer for Civil and Military Buildings, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 24th February 1874, No. 301:—

I HAVE the honour to forward for the orders of Government the plan and estimate for a coir godown to be built at Mangalore, which accompanied the letter from the District Engineer of South Canara, No. 128, of the 31st January, also a revised specification showing more clearly the construction of the building, than the specification first revised.

From A. C. LAWFORD, Esq., Officiating District Engineer, South Canara, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Mangalore, 31st January 1874, No. 128.

ADVERTING to extract Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, No. 2,918-A, dated 4th December 1873, regarding the submission of a revised plan and estimate for the Coir godown to be built at Mangalore, I have the honour to submit the same herewith with an explanation of the circumstances connected with it.

- 1 Plan.
- 1 Estimate.
- 1 Abstract Estimate.
- 1 Comparative Statement.
- 1 Copy of original Estimate.
- 1 Specification Report.

2. The G. O., No. 1,120, of 17th April 1873, communicating the Provincial Budget sanctioning Rupees 6,000 for the current official year, was received on 24th April 1873, a date too advanced to do much in the way of collecting of material before the monsoon which burst on 29th May 1873. Some few days before Mr. Pringle's arrival I took up the original plan and estimate with a view to draw up a working specification, but, on tracing out the items, finding some slight discrepancy, I transferred it to the Draughtsman for further examination and check. Before he could complete this check Mr. Pringle arrived on 21st May, and all work connected with the range was transferred to him. Of course no work could possible be commenced before the close of the monsoon or the end of August at the earliest.

3. I embody the explanation of Mr. Pringle, and can only say that I am confident he would not needlessly delay

Masonry.—The end and corner dwarf walls indicated by dotted lines in the enlarged ground plan have been left out in the original estimate.

Plastering.—A round number has been allowed in the original estimate in which the sides of buttresses and the outside of basement have been left out.

Wood-work.—In the original estimate, pur-lins, ridgepole, hip rafter and wall plates have been left, and being included in roofing, but this item has now been provided for in the revised estimate.

Arch-work.—783 cubic feet against 576.1 cubic feet in the revised estimate.

his work, and submit that the delay is due to the discrepancies which do exist as noted marginally. The wrong idea regarding the section was, I admit, shared by myself, an error easily made from want of colouring to distinguish clearly parts in section; and parts in elevation also from the want of a specification report which is not on record. The estimate might also be somewhat clearer in giving numbers to the different

items, as for instance 28 binding walls as also the section (*vide* pencil lines). The estimate now submitted shows however the necessity for a thorough revision, partly on account of rates and partly because items were clubbed together in the original estimate, involving different rates by which considerable excess would have been caused.

4. I trust the Government will see that there has been no intentional delay either on the part of myself or of the Mangalore Range Officer.

Mr. Pringle writes as follows:—

"Whilst forwarding revised estimate for the Coir godown at Mangalore, I have the honour to express my regrets that blame should have been accorded to me in G. O., No. 2,918-A, dated 4th December 1873, for delay in the matter of finding out and correcting the errors in the original estimate without my having an opportunity of offering explanation.

"As you are aware I only returned from Wynaad on the 21st of May 1873. On the first day on which I attended office, the Draughtsman brought up the plan and estimate which you had handed over to him, and stated that he could make nothing of the estimate. On the most cursory examination I found that it differed widely from the plan, and I then ordered him to recast it, as the most satisfactory way of rectifying the many errors in it. There was much urgent work in the office, and I myself was very unwell and had to take leave in July, so that on my return in August the revised estimate was still unfinished. The Draughtsman was told to put the matter in hand, but again other work which, considering that the Coir godown could be proceeded with under the old sanctioned estimate, was considered more emergent delayed it.

"In October or the beginning of November the rough draft estimate and plan were forwarded for my inspection, and now I regret that a mistake on my part caused a further delay. The sectional portion of section on C. D. (*vide* plan) is not coloured, and the drawing had given me the impression that the building was entirely floored above. The scantlings of the beams were evidently too small for the span in this case, so I returned the plan for the entry of central pillars to support the beams.

"On my return to Mangalore this error on my part was discovered and the new plan, then being drawn out, cancelled.

"I am free to admit that had I gone more deeply into the matter I should have discovered my mistake sooner, but the original estimate was so totally different to the plan, that I knew not where the error lay, and attributed that which was confined to the estimate, to the plan also.

"The real delay that has taken place is mainly attributable to the press of work my Draughtsman has.

"Hardly an estimate that has been drawn out two or more years ago that does not want thorough revision from alterations in rates, etc., and since the Local Fund Act came into force there have been calls for numerous estimates that were before carried out by the Revenue Department.

"Government in their order quoted above consider the expenditure already incurred as unauthorized, but I respectfully submit that that expenditure was incurred on a sanctioned plan and estimate, and with an allotment, and such expenditure I was under the impression was admissible even although revision from errors or change of rates should be necessary."

5. As the original plan is in no way altered, the allotment applied for in statement submitted on the 28th instant may be granted to enable me to carry on the work.

No. 113.

ORDER THEREON, 13th April 1874, No. 958.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 12.

The District Engineer of South Canara submitted, under date the 31st January 1874, an estimate for a Coir godown at Mangalore, exceeding by Rupees 2,310, or 26½ per cent., the estimate of Rupees 8,700, sanctioned in Revenue Department Order No. 2,454 of 22nd September 1868.

2. The work was amply provided with funds in the Provincial Budget of 1873-74, which reached Mangalore on 24th April 1873; between which date and the 21st May the District Engineer states that he took up the papers connected with it, found some discrepancy in them, and handed them over to his Draughtsman to examine and check. From the 21st May to October, or the beginning of November, the work of revising appears to have been similarly remitted to a Draughtsman, without any apparent attempt on the part either of the District Engineer or Range Officer to assist him or accelerate progress. It does not appear that he reported his inability to understand the plan. But on the Range Officer at last attempting to deal with the subject, its intricacy appears to have baffled him, and the District Engineer confesses himself to have been equally puzzled. Their recourse therefore was to order a new plan to be drawn out, and to report, under date the 18th November 1873, that they could not spend half the allotment of the year.

3. The Government Order thereon, No. 2,918-A. of 4th December, appears to have had the effect of inducing the Range Officer at last to apply his mind to a less superficial consideration of the subject than it had ever before occurred to him to be necessary to give it, with the result that the plan has been sent up unaltered. Of the total excess of Rupees 2,310, the comparative statement shows a net excess of Rupees 61½ out of a total of Rupees 3,87-7-8 for masonry and archwork, and of Rupees 278, out of a total of Rupees 939, for roofing and wood-work, or Rupees 340 in all as being due to alleged miscalculations of the original estimate; the whole of the rest being due to higher rates.

4. Under these circumstances his Excellency the Governor in Council is neither able to concur in the District Engineer's statement, that the delay is due to discrepancies which have been found to exist; nor in that of the Range Officer, that it is mainly attributable to the press of work upon his Draughtsman. It is due wholly and entirely to their personal neglect in delegating to a subordinate duties which they should have undertaken themselves. The District Engineer especially is bound to see that works provided with funds are not deferred for want of timely scrutiny of sanctioned plans and estimates, if thought defective.

5. In the present case it is admitted that expenditure might have been proceeded with under the old sanctioned estimate; yet its defects are brought forward as reasons for giving up half the year's allotment. But so large an excess as 26½ per cent. of itself invalidates a sanction; for it raises the question whether the plan which turns out to be so costly shall be adhered to or not. Hence the Range

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Officer is unquestionably wrong in his demur to the ruling of Government, that the expenditure incurred in the absence of sanction for a revised plan and estimate was unauthorized. The District Engineer is very much to blame for not correcting such erroneous ideas in his subordinates, and it is to be regretted that the Inspecting Engineer for Buildings has, in dealing with these papers, neglected to point out his and his Range Officer's mistakes.

6. The work will be proceeded with on the revised estimate, and report of its progress up to the ensuing monsoon will be made in due course.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspecting Engineer for Buildings.

„ District Engineer, South Canara.

„ Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

„ ~~Revenue~~ Department.

Recd.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

Sept. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER FOR

BUILDINGS,

Sec. Sec. Sec.

Dated April 18th.

Encl.

Encl.

G. O. 136 April 1874, No. 113.

APRIL

Nos 112-113

Cair Godown at Mangalore.—Passing orders on the Plan and Estimate for the construction of the godown at Mangalore, and the work ordered to be proceeded with on the revised estimate and a report of its progress up to the ensuing monsoon to be made.

Recorded in Revenue Dept.

M. G. O. No. 95 dated

18-4-1874