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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	97	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	13 (9) 5	1961 874

Not to be folded or roughly handled

97

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th March 1874.*

No. 243. Read the following letter from T. MOSS, Esq., Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort Saint George, 3rd February 1874, No. 7,118 :—

CIVIL OFFICERS who carry out public works in addition to their monthly abstracts of expenditure have, under the existing rules, to submit bills for formal audit on completion of works. These bills while they take up much time in preparation meet no real want, and it, therefore, occurred to me to make the attempt to put a stop to an arrangement which increased the work of Civil Officers, without in any way strengthening or adding to the check or audit of the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

2. The arrangement above referred to is not peculiar to Madras, but is followed in all parts of India, and I therefore thought it desirable to consult the Accountant-General of the Public Works Department, to whom I wrote as follows in my letter, No. 6,181, of the 20th December 1873 :—

“ I have the honour to suggest, for your consideration, the desirableness of modifying the existing rules under which Civil Officers submit bills for works and repairs when completed. The expenditure on works and repairs is shown month by month in the abstracts, and I do not think that anything is gained by getting a detail of cost of items of work and average rates. For the most part the detail agrees closely with the estimate, and when this is not the case the differences are not usually inquired into or objected to so long as the total amount of estimate is not exceeded, or, if exceeded, not to any great extent.

“ 2. The fact is that Civil Officers have not time to attend to such matters in the way they are attended to by Public Works Officers, and, to my knowledge, they have often been obliged to sign bills for works, the details of which they could not certify to. The only useful purpose which bills serve is the proof they afford of completion of sanctioned works and repairs; but it seems to me that this could be secured with less trouble to Civil Officers, and in a more complete shape, by the Audit Office, by requiring the addition of a tabular certificate in the following form at the back of the monthly abstract :—

“ Certified that the following works were completed *during the month* according to the proposals made, and approved when the estimates were sanctioned, the exceptions being explained, in the column of Remarks.

Description of Work.	Amount of Sanctioned Estimate	Total Expenditure.	Explanation of deviations from estimate, as regards description, quantity, and rates of work.

“ 3. I should mention that my remarks above are not based with particular reference to Madras; I have long held the opinion I now express.”

3. The Accountant-General in his letter, No. 114 G, of the 28th January 1874, has replied as follows :—

“ I have the honour to inform you that I have no objection to the changes proposed by you; indeed, I would go further and not require the final certificate

Gobt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE OFFG. CONTROLLER OF PUBLIC
WORKS ACCOUNTS

Dated March 11th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 11th March 1874, No. 643

MARCH

Nos. 243-244

Accounts.—Ordered that the Government of India be addressed on the subject of the proposed modification of the form of accounts to be rendered by Civil Officers on the completion of works carried out by them.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th May 1874.

No. 209. Read the following letter from Colonel C. H. DICKENS, R.A., Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account—General,) to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 17th April 1874, No. 250 A.—(r:—

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 644, dated the 11th ultimo, on the subject of the simplification of the forms of Account to be rendered by Civil Officers entrusted with the execution of public works.

2. In reply I am to say that His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is pleased to sanction the proposal of the Madras Government that the bills for completed works which, under existing rules, have to be submitted by Civil Officers in addition to their ordinary monthly accounts, should be dispensed with, the information given in them being for the future recorded in a tabular certificate on the back of the monthly abstract.

No. 210. ORDER THEREON, 9th May 1874, No. 1,244.

ACCOUNT, No. 11.

COMMUNICATED to the several departments of the Secretariat and the Controller of Public Works Accounts in continuation of G. O., No. 643, of 11th March 1874. The latter officer will arrange for giving effect to the sanction of the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

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

To Departments of Secretariat, with G. O., No. 63 of 1874. (Rm. Sept.)
To the Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Accountant-General.

Encl. S. T. Austin.

10 Spare Copies will follow for studies

Revenue Department
Govt. of India
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.

Ac. Ac. Ac.

Date

Recd. 13

Encl.

G. O. 294 May 1874, No. 1,244

MAY

Nos. 209-210

Bills.—Letter from the Government of India sanctioning proposal for dispensing with the submission by Civil Officers of bills for completed works, communicated to the several departments of the Secretariat and the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

N. 97.

Communicated to the

Board of Revenue

For the Secretary to the Board of Revenue
13/1/74