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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1597	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	30.7.1875	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st July 1875.*

No. 522. Read the following letter from Captain L. CONWAY-GORDON, R.E., Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Officiating Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 25th June 1875, No. 29-W :—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G. O., No. 1,548, dated June 2nd, 1875, requesting the Controller to prepare, within three months, a complete statement of the Capital and Revenue Accounts of the Madras Water Works, and also requesting that should any delay be anticipated in the preparation of these accounts, a full explanation of the probable cause of delay may be furnished at the earliest possible date.

2. In reply, I have to inform you that the accounts of this office do not contain all the information required by Government. The sub-journals, a record from which the required information should at once be forthcoming, have been much neglected till the last year or two; in fact at one period the sub-journals would appear to have been considered so useless that Government sanctioned their abandonment. In the only records of this office available to me, the total expenditure on all heads of the Madras Water Works is shown in a single line, without any detail whatever, and the figures entered do not even in all cases agree with the annual accounts. The accounts now required by Government will consequently have to be recompiled step by step from the progress reports and other original records in the Range Office, checked, as the work proceeds, with the annual accounts of the Controller's Office.

3. I further observe that the Government have called for a statement of Revenue outlay from fifteen years before the commencement of improvements. As the improvements to the Madras Water Works commenced in the year 1866-67, this will carry the required accounts of Revenue outlay back to the year 1851-52. The earliest accounts in this office are for the year 1863-64, so that for twelve years out of the fifteen I cannot guarantee the production from the records of this office of any accounts of Revenue outlay. I shall, however, do everything possible to obtain the information required from some other source if possible.

4. I can only promise that, within the stipulated time, Capital and Revenue Accounts of these works shall be submitted to Government, which if not altogether complete shall be as complete as can now be obtained from existing records. I propose that the compilation of these accounts be carried out in the following way.

5. The Madras Water Works project is, as you are aware, included in the general list of Irrigation Works in this Presidency for which Capital and Revenue Accounts have been ordered to be prepared. Mr. Christie, the Deputy Controller, to whom this work has been entrusted, has finished all the preliminary work that can be done in this office. As soon as a memorandum of instructions, I have drawn out for his guidance, has been approved of by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, I am anxious for that part of his work to be proceeded with which must be done in the district in personal communication with the Range and Revenue Officers.

6. In lieu of his proceeding to the Kistna, as originally decided upon, I propose his undertaking the Chingleput District first for the following reasons :—

1st.—The preparation of the Capital and Revenue Accounts of the Madras Water Works as now required by Government, if done by Mr. Christie, will form a part of the general scheme, and thus no labor will be lost.

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2nd.—It is to be anticipated that when practically commencing the preparation of these accounts a number of minor questions will arise as to details, which have not been specially provided for, and which must be settled as the work proceeds. In the compilation of the accounts of the first district, where the greater number of these questions may be expected to arise, it is, I think, advisable that Mr. Christie should be as near headquarters as possible, so as to be able to discuss these points personally with the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, and with myself.

3rd.—It will be remembered that, in addition to these Irrigation Accounts, Mr. Christie at one time undertook and partly finished a revision of the Madras system of Public Works Accounts. In introducing the Government of India system of Public Works Accounts, his experience will be specially valuable to me in dealing with those differences of procedure which the Madras range executive system may require.

7. For these reasons I am anxious that Mr. Christie should commence with the Chingleput District. In fact it is only in this way that I see any certainty of being able to meet the wishes of Government with regard to the accounts of the Madras Water Works. The present is the busiest time of the year for a Controller's office. The annual accounts are under preparation: the office establishment has been recognized by Government as requiring a thorough re-organization, but circumstances have hitherto prevented this organization from being carried out. It would be unbusiness-like were I to hold out promises to Government, as regards the preparation of the accounts of the Madras Water Works by any part of my own office establishment, as such promises could only result in further disappointment and delay.

8. In the way suggested however, and without delaying the general scheme in the least, I shall be able to place before Government all the information available with regard to these accounts within three months' time.

9. At the commencement of his work in the district I would suggest that Mr. Christie be allowed the same scale of temporary establishment as he was allowed before, viz., Rs. 350 per mensem, vide G. O., No. 134, dated January 15th, 1873, and for an aggregate temporary establishment to this amount for three months I have the honor to request the early sanction of Government. As soon as the preparation of the Capital and Revenue Accounts of the Madras Irrigation Works has made some progress, and I have an opportunity of judging what establishment the work really requires for its rapid and efficient prosecution, I will in accordance with paragraph 6 of G. O., No. 3,103-C, of 31st October 1874, submit definite proposals for the establishment required.

10. I should be obliged by a very early reply.

No. 523.

ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1875, No. 2,075.

IRRIGATION, No. 51.
Account.

THE Government approve of the employment of Lieutenant Christie in the manner proposed by the Controller, and sanction the entertainment, for three

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months, of the temporary establishment, at a cost not exceeding Rupees 350 a-month, reported to be required.

(True Extract.)

John Austin

Major, R.E.,

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Revenue Department. *W*

Exd. S. T. Austin.

20 Spare Copies will follow

Rev. 1875: 24th
N. 2520

Gobt. of 1875 Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE CONTROLLER OF PUBLIC
WORKS ACCOUNTS.

2 Chas

&c. &c. &c.

Dated July 21st.

Issued

Recd.

26th

Encl.

G. O., 21st July 1875, No. 2,975.

JULY.

Nos. 522-523

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Capital and Revenue Accounts of the
Madras Water Works Project.—Passing
orders on letter of the Controller offering cer-
tain suggestions relative to the preparation
of —

N^o 1597

Comm. to the

14. To the Board of Directors, 7 August