

25. Reel 6053; 4/1755, pp. 225-236
1817, December 24
Instructions issued to Major Druitt
by Governor Lachlan Macquarie
p. 231 refers to Government works

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Instructions for Major
George Druitt 48 Regt.
Acting Engineer and
Artillery Officer and
Inspector of Government
Public Works

Sir

Having in my Government and General orders, which date 15th instant, appointed you to be acting Engineer and Artillery Officer and Inspector of all Public Government Works at Sydney, you are to be governed generally by the following instructions in executing the Duties of those Offices.

1st You are frequently to visit the Mechanics and Laborers employed in carrying on the various Government works in the Lumber Yard, Dock Yard, Brick Fields, Store Quarries, and at all other Places where they are employed in erecting New Buildings or in repairing old ones. You are on these visits to inspect the several Works or repairs in progress and to see that the People employed upon them execute them properly and do not idle away their time – You are to make these Visits of Inspection at least twice every day during the working Hours; early in the morning when they commence working to see that the several Gangs are all present, and again in the Afternoon before they leave off work to see that they have performed their several Tasks assigned to them, or if no Tasks have been assigned to them that they have executed as much works as might reasonably be expected in the course of the Day.

2nd In case you should find any of the Mechanics or Laborers neglecting their work, you are to confine them in Gaol immediately, making a report thereof to me. – You are to observe the same rule in case any of them should be absent from their work without leave, or in case you should discover any fraudulent conduct, or detect any Embezzlement or Peculation of the Government Stores or Materials of any description, by the said Mechanics or Laborers – Thefts Frauds or abuses of this nature by whomsoever committed whether by Superintendents Overseers Mechanics Laborers or other Persons, you are not to overlook or pass over on any account whatever but to confine the culprit or culprits immediately in Gaol till reported to me.

3rd No new work of any sort or repairs of any Government Buildings of any description are ever to be undertaken or commenced upon till submitted to me and you shall have received my orders thereupon.

4th All demands for Stores Materials for Buildings or other Articles required from the Kings Stores for carrying on the Government Public Works are in the first instance to be made to you and by you made up into one general demand on the First Monday of each Week, when you are to submit the same for my approval and Counter Signature, your own Signature being always affixed thereto.

5th No Wood or Timber of any description whether in Logs or in Planks, Iron, Steel, Nails, Artificers Tools, Lime, Bricks, Tiles, Shingles, Coals Quarries Stores or any sort of Stores or Materials the Property of Government is ever to be given away to or permitted to be taken away by any Person whatever whether in or out of the service of Government – without a written order addressed to you or to the Principal Superintendent signed by me – No Mechanic or Laborer in the service of Government is ever to be lent out to work for any Individuals or excused from Public Labor or get leave of absence or be exchanged from one Gang to another or be put on or taken off the Stores without my special permission first obtained for that purpose –

6th The Books containing the weekly returns of work and Labour performed by the several Government Gangs and of the expenditure of Stores and Materials are to be made up regularly every Saturday by the Principal Superintendent and his Clerk and submitted by you to me on the Monday of each Week along with your general demand for Stores – In like manner the Monthly Muster Return, Book of all the Gangs of Artificers and Laborers assigned Servants to the Civil and Military Officers Superintendents and Overseers and of all other Persons Victualled(?) at Sydney at the expence of the Crown is to be made up at the end of each Month by the Principal Superintendent and submitted by you for my inspection on the first Monday of each Month –

The whole of the working Oxen employed by Government in carrying on the Public Works at Sydney and Lane Cove are to be mustered by either yourself or the Principal Superintendent in the course of the first Week in each Month and a written report is to be made to me of their Numbers state and condition specifying the casualties (if any) which have occurred in the preceding Month –

7th You are to provide yourself with a Muster roll of the Names of the several Gangs of Mechanics and Laborers in the service of Government at Sydney with the respective occupations together with that of the several Superintendents and Overseers in charge of the said Gangs and you must endeavor(sic) to make yourself acquainted as far as possible with their respective Characters and capacities –

The whole of the Government Gangs of Artificers and Laborers of every description being placed under Your control and direction, you are hereby authorized to give them such orders and instructions from time to time in the execution of their several occupations and Offices as You may judge most conducive to His Majesty's Service and the forwarding of the Public Works in hand –

The Master Builder of the Dock Yard is however an exception to the forgoing rule he receiving his orders directly from myself in as far as relates to his own personal duties as Master Builder. –

But you are nevertheless at liberty to give him orders respecting the Timber Lime and Coals deposited in the Dock Yard under his Charge and he is to account to You at all times where and how all his Artificers an Laborers are employed giving You a weekly account thereof which is to be included in the Weekly and Monthly working and Muster return Book – All Wood and Timber of any description whether in Logs or in Planks sent

for the Government works from either **Newcastle** or Lane Cove, as well as Coals and Lime from the latter place are always to be deposited in the Dock Yard in the first instance in charge of the Master Builder who will issue the same agreeably to the orders he may receive from You all which orders ought to be in writing and entered in a Book to be Kept by You for that purpose.

8th As the Principal part of the wood and Timber required for the different – Government works and Buildings carrying on at Sydney are procured and sawed at Lane Cove by the Government Gangs of Sawyers and Laborers stationed there and as it is well known that they do not perform near the quantity of work they ought to do it becomes necessary that they should be narrowly watched and that the principal Overseer there should be more vigilant and held responsible for his Gangs doing more work than they have hitherto done – You will therefore consider it as part of your duty to visit the Gangs employed at Lane Cove occasionally and inspect their work, calling on the Overseer to render you such returns as You may deem necessary for Your information.

It will be proper that either Yourself or the Principal Superintendent should accordingly visit and muster the Gangs employed at Lane Cove once every Week on uncertain Days so as to ascertain whether the Overseer keeps them close to their work or gives any of them leave of absence which is no doubt often done – He must be particularly enjoined not to do so and also not to permit his Men to saw or cut down Timber for private Individuals without a written order from me or a practice of this nature would greatly retard and interfere with the Public Works of Government.

9th You are henceforth to consider the Gaol Gang as under Your authority and control and to direct how and where they are to be employed in future giving strict orders to the Overseers placed over this Gang to march the whole of the Men of which it consists regularly in one body from the Gaol to the place appointed for them to work in and in the same manner back from thence to Gaol again to their Meals as well as when the work of the day is entirely over. –

The Gaol Gang must invariably live and Cook in the Gaol and are never on any account to be permitted to straggle away from their work or to go into the Town. –

You will receive my instructions weekly on Mondays respecting the disposal of the Gaol Gang for the ensuing Week.

10th You are to consider Yourself in Your capacity of Acting Artillery Officer as in charge of all the Forts Battery's and ordnance at Sydney and to give such orders respecting the same as you may deem expedient.

11th The Principal Superintendent of Convicts is immediately placed under your Control and authority and is instructed to give you at all times every assistance and information in his power. The whole of the working Oxen wagons, Carts, Trucks and Brats(?), are also hereby placed under Your direction and control – A Schedule or Inventory of all the Government Brats Waggons, Carts, Trucks, and numbers of working Oxen must be regularly entered in the Monthly Muster Book and all losses and casualties correctly accounted for therein.

12th You are always to be present at the muster of the Gangs of Artificers and Laborers in the service of Government whether free Men or Convicts including the Gaol Gang every Sunday Morning for Church ordering all absentees to be confined afterwards reported to me in order that I may direct such Punishment to be inflicted upon them as the nature of the case may require.

13th No work must be done for any Civil Military Officer or for any private Individual in the Lumber Yard or Dock Yard by the Government Artificers or Laborers in the Governments working trust(?) without a written order from the Governor.

14th The Crews of all the Government Colonial Vessels are to be mustered by you regularly once every Month and if practicable the muster is to be taken on the 24th of each Month or as so on afterwards as the nature of the services they are employed on will admit – comparing the Muster Rolls of the said Vessels with their Monthly pay Lists – The whole of the Stores – belonging to the said Vessels are also to be minutely inspected at the same time the muster is taken and an account of the receipts and expenditures of Stores for the preceding Month is to be given into you by the Commanders of the several Government Vessels in order to their being laid before me.

15th In my absence at any time from Head Quarters You will make the usual weekly reports to the Lieut. Governor and obey such orders as he may deem expedient to issue to You during my absence –

I am

Government House
Sydney 24th Dec 1817

Sir
Your most obd. Serv.

“Signed” L. Macquarie

True Copy

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