1. Number of pages 8
2. Date of receipt 7-6-57
3. Initials of Reader

M.R.O. 1—82 600—23-11-50

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Secret 17-2-57

G.O. No. 299 Press / Mis.

5-6

Dated 12-2- 1957

1

Not to be folded or roughly handled

5-6-57

No. 5. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, D. P. W., dated 29th January 1857, No. 9848.

SIR,

On the 15th April 1856, I had the honor to submit several estimates for additional works in connection with the Pennair annicut at Nellore. These estimates were submitted in two groupes, the first contained five items of which Government sanctioned four in Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, No. 706, dated 15th May 1856, and directed the fifth amounting to Rupees 5,176, and providing for the addition of posts and shutters to the annicut to be entered in the Budget for 1857-58, the second groupe provided for the construction of a Railway from the Quarries to the annicut, and amounted to Rupees 17,510.

2. Respecting this Railway; further information was called for in para. 5 of the above Extract from the Minutes of Consultation on the following points.

1st. The probable expense of wear and tear.

2nd. The length of the proposed Railway.

3rd. Its method or system of construction.

4th. As to the quantities of roughstone computed by Lieutenant Mullins, to be required for the tanks to the eastward of the annicut.

5th. On the comparison of the cost of supplying the roughstone by Railway and canal, and by the usual method.

3. The first of these questions was answered in Lieutenant Mullins' letter, No. 278, dated 14th April 1856, in which the rail was supposed to last only 5 years, and then to fetch nothing, this is a sufficiently liberal allowance, but it was necesssary to make a liberal allowance, as the whole work to be done by the rail was supposed to be completed in 5 years; by which time Lieutenant Mullins assumes that all the tanks would be revetted, the answer to the second is; that the rail is 9,420 feet or about 1¾ miles in length. The answer to the third question is, that it will consist of cross sleepers about 4 feet apart, supporting longitudinal sleepers to which flat bar iron will be attached. Spike nails will pass through the iron and long sleepers into the cross ones.

Vide letter from District Engineer, No. 540, dated 18th June, para. 5.

4. With reference to the fourth question, the District Engineer's local knowledge renders him better able to form an opinion than I can at Madras, as it is a matter of fact, rather than opinion. With reference to the fifth question, I regret that a clerical error by which 60 appears to have been written for 10 led to the conclusion, that the estimate for carriage had not been looked into, being drawn in para. 5 of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation No. 706.

Vide list forwarded with the letter from the District Engineer of Nellore, No. 278, dated 14th April 1856.

5. The fact was that Lieutenant Mullins' original calculation of 2 pairs of bullocks was altered in this office to 10, after a careful consideration in which due allowance was given for the inferiority of the proposed description of rail to the best description, such as that employed on the Madras and other Railways; it was not then known, however, that there was a fall from the Quarries to the annicut; Lieutenant Mullins has reported in a letter dated 18th June, that the road has a fall of 10 feet a mile, or 1 in 528 from the Quarries to the annicut, this would enable 8 pairs of bullocks to move as much as 10 would on a level, and render a corresponding reduction in the estimate necessary.

Vide letter from the District Engineer, No 278, dated 14th April 1856.

6. On the most important question of the probable returns to be expected from conveying stone from the Quarries to the tanks to the eastward, the Collector of Nellore has expressed his opinion in a letter No. 207, dated 15th July 1856, to the effect, that so long as the Nunjah lands watered by the tanks to the eastward of the Pennair annicut, have to pay their present high Assessment, there is no hope of any extension of cultivation, or increased revenue; he further observes, that

Vide letter from Collector of Nellore, No. 207, dated 15th July.

some of the land included in the Ayacut, but not yet cultivated, is liable to be submerged by the waters of the existing tanks, so that it cannot be concluded that the whole of the lands now uncultivated, would be cultivated, if the tank banks were raised, and then strengthened by stone revetments; he thinks that stone revetments are required to prevent breaches, and to place the present revenue on a more stable basis.

7. The additional revenue which would result from the construction of the revetments, appeared from the statement furnished by the Collector, through Lieutenant Mullins, to be Rupees (43,629) forty-three thousand, six hundred and twenty-nine, the Ayacut Assessment being 1,03,194, and the last year's Assessment being 59,865 Rupees.

8. The cost of revetting all the tanks with stone, amounts to a little more than 1,80,000 Rupees, it appears important, therefore, that the question of the reduction of the Assessment, should be considered at an early date.

9. In the mean time, I have the honor to request, I may be furnished with the orders of Government, as to whether the estimate already submitted for the Railway, from the Quarries to the Pennair annicut, amounting to Rupees 17,510, should be entered in the Budget for 1857-58, or not.

10. I would add my own recommendation, that under the present financial pressure, the estimate be kept in abeyance, until the question of the reduction of the Assessment, shall have been finally settled.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, No. 299; dated 12th February 1857.

In passing orders on the 15th May last, on an estimate of Rupees 30,190 in two parts, the first for sundry works in connection with the Pennair annicut in Nellore, and the second for a light Railway from the Quarries to the bank of the river at the annicut, the Government sanctioned the first and deferred the second until further information was laid before them of the necessity of the work. The Chief Engineer in his present letter submits explanation on the points noticed by Government. The Railway proposed to be laid down is calculated to last five years; it is to be one mile and four-fifths in length, and is intended for the conveyance of supplies of stone from the Quarries for revetting the bunds of tanks to the eastward of the annicut; the cost of revetting the whole of them inclusive of the expense of the Railway being estimated in Lieutenant Mullins' letter of the 14th April at 1,82,175 Rupees. But from the Collector's letter of the 15th July, it would appear that after all, there will be no return from such outlay, unless a reduction of the Assessment is introduced; to which effect, he states, he submitted a proposition in May last to the Board of Revenue.

2. Under such circumstance, the Government cannot grant sanction for the entry of the estimate of Rupees 17,510 for the construction of the Railway in the Budget of 1857-58. The Chief Engineer's letter will however be referred to the Board of Revenue; and their attention will be particularly drawn to paras. 6 and 7, with the request that they will obtain and submit an early Report from the Collector with their own views on the subject.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Cons: 20th May 56 Nos 32 to 34.
" 18th Dec 55 " 59 to 61.
" 26th Feby 56 " 80 & 87
" 25th Sept 55 " 42 & 43.
" 16th Oct " " 14 & 15.

Pub: Works 1857 Department
Dto to Cons 17 February. No. 193
From,
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secretary to Government,
F.S.G.
Dated 29th January 1857
Received 29th
No. 904.
Enclosures 5 Returned
S.E. No. 299. 12th Feby
Forwards information called for, in Exd Engineer Cons: No. 706 dated 15th May 1856 on the subject of the proposed Railway from the Quarries to the banks of the River Pennaur near Nellore and recommends that the Estimate for the same be kept in abeyance until the question of the Reduction of the Assessment shall have been finally settled.

Copy to the Bd of Rev.
12 Feb 57.

No 5.

4th Feby Rq

Pub Works Dept

No 299

Extract from the Minutes of Consultations
Under date the 17th February 1857

Read the following
letter from the Chief
Engineer
(Here enter 28 Jan 1857 to 95/8)
In passing orders on
the 15th May last on an estimate
of Rs. 30,420 in two parts, the
first for sundry works in connec-
tion with the Pennair annicut
in Nellore, and the second for
a light railway from the quarries
to the bank of the river at the an-
nicut, the Govt sanctioned the
first and deferred the second un-
til further information was laid
before them of the necessity of
the work. The Chief Engr in his
present letter submits explanation
on the points noticed by Govt.
The railway proposed to be laid
down is calculated to last five
years, it is to be one mile & four
fifths in length, and is intended
for the to convey supplies of stone from

the quarries for revetting the bends of tanks to the eastward of the aqueduct; the cost of revetting the whole of them inclusive of the expence of the railway being estimated in Lt. Mullins letter of the 14th April at 1,82,175 Rupees. But from the Colr's letter of the 15th July it would appear that after all there will be no return from such outlay, unless a reduction of the assessment is introduced to which effect he states, he has submitted a fresh estimate in May last to the Board of Revenue.

Under such circumstance the Govt cannot grant sanction to the entry of the estimate of Rs. 17,500 for the construction of the railway in the Budget of 1857/58. The Chief Engrs letter will however be referred to the Board of Revenue, and their attention will be particularly drawn to paras 6 & 7, with the request that they will obtain and submit an early report

from the Colr with their answers on the subject.

HD

9 Copies to the Chief Engr with 5 Sept Engrs Encl: 13

3. to the Bd of Rev with Copy of the Chief Engrs letter -

Public Works 1857 Dep.t
Dat. to Com.rs 27 February

No 299.

Extract Minute of Com.rs
Dat. 12 February 57
Rec.d from the Bd of Rev.e 16 Feby 57
Mr Coll.r 1971 mutilations 24

Declining to sanction the
Tender of the Estimate of
£17,510 for the Construc-
tion of the Railway from
the Quarries to the bank
of the river Bunnaw near
Nellone in the Budget of
1857-58, requesting the
Bd of Rev.e to obtain &
submit a Report from the
Coll.r with their own
Views on the Subject.

No 546.