1. Number of pages. 4
2. Date of repair 3-2-3
3. Initials of Reference.

M.R.O. 1—82,400—23-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Copied 5-5-37

G.O. No. 847 Press Mis.

73—74

Dated 2—5— 1837.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3/5/37

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 5th May 1857.

No. 73. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 9th April 1857, No. 57.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to state that Professor Richard Owen's letter to me a copy of which was sent to Madras refers to the two Bridges named in the margin now on rapid progress towards completion on the "Dalhousie" road from Wundoor to the foot of the Sissparrah Ghaut.

Kallikum Estimate Rupees 1,100
Cheroopoya do. „ 1,030

2. On the occasion of Lord Dalhousie's visit to the Hills via Calicut and Sissparrah it was found necessary to improve, indeed almost entirely to retrace and make, the road from the head of the water carriage on the Beypore river at Arracode to Cholakul at the foot of the Sissparrah Ghaut. This was done at an outlay of Rupees 2,529-3-10, under the sanction of Government, dated 30th January 1855, and the earthwork of an excellent wheel carriage road was completed. In April 1856, Major Selby under Captain Francis' directions estimated for the two bridges above named on the line, both essential to the road becoming an effective wheel carriage road at all seasons; and measures were taken to carry out the work before last monsoon. Building is always attended with delay and disappointment in those feverish and jungly parts, but a good quantity of materials &c. had been collected before the rains stopped the work.

3. When Captain Ouchterlony took charge of this District from Captain Francis, who had planned and executed the works, he became anxious to "concentrate all available resources of labor and finance" on the newly proposed Carcoor Pass and Neilgherry Ghaut and road, through the Goodaloor part of Wynad, and he recommended the abandonment of the Sissparrah Ghaut to the Neilgherries and the removal of its annual allowance &c. to the Carcoor Pass. While this matter was under discussion, further expenditure on the road bridges of the "Dalhousie" line was naturally deferred by Mr. Clarke.

4. I should consider the abandonment of the Sissparrah Ghaut even were the Carcoor road sanctioned and completed a matter of very questionable policy on its own merits even were the Ghaut nothing but a road to Ootacamund, but I earnestly deprecate such a measure as very unjust and impolitic, when we consider that a large capital has been invested on that Ghaut by Coffee planters, of whom Professor R. Owen, is the largest and most enterprizing Proprietor, under circumstances which do him great honor, and I should now be prepared to even recommend an outlay on improvement of the lower six miles of the Ghaut with a view to a better communication with the estates half way up the Ghaut.

5. The doubt as to the permanency of the Ghaut was happily set at rest by Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated 30th September 1853, No. 1768, refusing to sanction the abandonment of the Sissparrah Ghaut in favor of the Carcoor Pass and no time has been lost by me in pressing on the completion of the 2 bridges,—they are now well advanced, and will be opened before the monsoon. We have met with the usual difficulties in obtaining labor &c. in these forest parts but they have been overcome and shortly a Cart road completed with bridges will be open from the Beypore river at Arcacode to Cholakul at the foot of the Ghaut.

6. I have entered the Dalhousie road as a 2nd Class District road in my list of District roads and have proposed an outlay of Rupees 25 per mile for its maintenance and improvement. With regard to the Ghaut I would venture to recommend the outlay of 1,000 Rupees in improving the very bad parts of the lower six miles of the Sissparrah Ghaut between Wallaghat and Cholakul for the sake of the Coffee planting interests and capital now invested in that neighbourhood. It is needless to add that the Neilgherry Travellers would reap largely the advantage of such an outlay.

No. 74. ORDER THEREON, No. 847; dated 2nd May 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer, with a request that he will report on the recommendation made by the Acting Collector, in the latter part of para. 6 of the above

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 5th May 1857.

letter, for the improvement of the bad parts of the lower six miles of the Sissparrah Ghaut, between Wallaghat and Cholakul, at an outlay of Rupees 1,000.

2. In furnishing this report, the Chief Engineer will be good enough to give the date of sanction on which the two bridges referred to in para. 1 of the letter, are under execution.

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

of the lower Six Miles of the Sissparrah Ghaut between Wallaghat & Cholakul for the sake of the Coffee-planting interests and Capital now invested in that Neighbourhood. It is needless to add that the Bullockery Travellers would reap largely the advantage of such an outlay.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most Obt. Servt.
(illegible)
Dy Coll.

Encl 30th Sept 55 to 91-92
" 33d Sang 55 - 29 - 29

(3)

No 73 & 74.

C 22 April & R 25th

1857.

Public Works Depart.
Rec'd Covr 5th May No 730
From
The Collector of
Malabar
To
The Secretary to
Government
Fort St. Geo:
Dated 9 April 57.
No 75

No 57.

Ltt Pro. Irwin Chief Engr
& Supt Chowghaut Dist. 30
Reports on the subject of
the letter from Professor
Oxenden that the 2 Bridges on
the "Dalhousie" road therein
alluded to are in rapid
progress & recommends
the outlay of 1000 Rs.
towards the improvement
of this road —

Write an order
No 848 2d May.

No 847

Ordered to be communicated
to the Chief Engineer, with a request
that he will report on the recom-
mendation made by the acting Collector
in the latter part of para 6 of the above
letter for the improvement of the bad
parts of the lower five miles of the
Dispatch Ghaut, between Mallaghaut
and Cholakul, at an outlay of
Rupees 1000.

In furnishing this
report the Chief Engineer will
be good enough to give the date of
sanction on which the two bridges
referred to in para 1 of the letter,
are under execution.

Fort St. George
2d May 1857

A Copie to the Chief Engr Dist 4th