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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 30-6-51

G.O. No. 125-1 Press Mis.

4442

Dated 26-6- 18 51

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 30th June 1857.

No. 41. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 3rd June 1857, No. 875.

Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Calicut, 11th May 1857, No. 133.

SIR,

With reference to your order No. 105, of the 5th Instant, I have the honor to inform you that nothing can be done for improving the Sissparrah Ghaut till after the monsoon, and I have advised Lieutenant Bean, to defer any examination of it for the present.

2. If an estimate for improving the Ghaut is to be made by the Engineer Department it will assuredly exceed the sum proposed by the Acting Collector, and unless the work is executed between the monsoons all the measurements will require revision. I should not myself think that any effectual good can be done under 10,000 Rupees, but if the Government should be disposed to spend, 1,000 Rupees in clearing jungle, slight levelling, and such petty repairs, I have no doubt that Mr. Robinson, would effect a considerable clearance of the road, which is at present much infested by wild beasts. I would recommend therefore that application be made to Government for an intimation of their views on this point, and especially as to the extent of improvement they are prepared to sanction. There can be no doubt of the utility of the communication with the hills by this route which will not be entirely superseded by the Carcoor line, and the Coffee estates at Wallaghaut merit some consideration.

3. The two bridges referred to were sanctioned on the 8th April and 6th May 1856, for 1,100 and 1,030 Rupees respectively.

4. Copy of this letter has been forwarded to the District Engineer, and I have been in communication with Mr. Robinson on the subject.

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter No. 133, of the 11th May 1857, from the Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, recommending that the Collector of Malabar be allowed a thousand Rupees, for clearing jungle, slight levelling and petty repairs to Sissparrah Ghaut, be forwarded for the orders of Government.

2. It is observed that Major Lawford, apparently either loses sight of the cessation of executive functions in the Revenue authorities, or else that he considers, and probably justly, that the case is an exceptional one, requiring a more prompt and influential agency than that of the District Engineer but newly invested with executive duties, and as yet imperfectly acquainted with Malabar. The benefit of the outlay recommended will probably be far from inconsiderable though without any character of permanence.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 42. ORDER THEREON, No. 1251; dated 26th June 1857.

In Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 2nd May last No. 847, the Government referred to the Chief Engineer for report, a proposition made by the Acting Collector of Malabar for improving the bad parts of the lower six miles of the Sissparah Ghaut, at an outlay of Rupees 1,000, and enquiry was at the same time made, as to the date of sanction to the two Bridges on the road to the foot of the Ghaut, referred to in the Collector's letter. With the Proceedings above recorded, the Chief Engineer forwards, but without making any reference to the order of 2nd May, a letter from the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle, stating that nothing short of Rupees 10,000 would suffice for effectually improving the Ghaut, but that if Rupees 1,000 the sum asked for by the Collector be sanctioned, that officer would be enabled to effect

a considerable clearance of the road. The Superintending Engineer therefore wishes that Government should state their views as to the extent of improvement which they are prepared to sanction.

2. The Chief Engineer, without noticing the several points put forth in Major Lawford's letter, merely solicits the orders of Government on the proposition to expend a sum of Rupees 1,000 in clearing jungle, and executing small repairs to the Ghaut, observing that the benefit of the outlay would be "far from inconsiderable, though without any character of permanence."

3. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is unable to gather from the papers before him whether the Rupees 10,000 the sum mentioned by Major Lawford as likely to be required for improving the Ghaut, refers to the entire Ghaut, or only to the bad parts of the six miles spoken of by the Collector, and he is precluded therefore from sanctioning either this sum, or that recommended for petty repairs, viz. Rupees 1,000. Under all the circumstances of the case, the Government are of opinion that an examination should be made of the Ghaut, and a report submitted on its condition specifying the important places it connects, its entire length, the extent that is in good order, and that requiring repair or improvement. A sketch map should also be submitted shewing the direction of the ghaut. On receipt of these papers, the Government will be prepared to consider the measures necessary for reforming or improving the Ghaut, including the six miles referred to by the Collector; but mere repairs to it should be authorized by the Chief Engineer out of the funds provided for the purpose in the Budget.

4. By the remark in the Superintending Engineer's letter that with the sum of Rupees 1,000 the Collector would be enabled to effect a considerable clearance of the road, that officer would seem to have lost sight of the circumstance of the cessation in the Revenue authorities of executive functions in connection with Public Works. The Government wish Major Lawford to understand distinctly, that the Engineer authorities are alone competent to carry out Public Works, and that beyond the issue of funds, the Collector should have no concern with the executive.

5. In respect to the enquiry made in the order of 2nd May regarding the two Bridges, Major Lawford states that the works were sanctioned on the 8th April and 6th May 1856. These sanctions are not found on the records of this Department, and if care had been taken in the Chief Engineer's Office to have the dates verified, they would no doubt have been found to be erroneous. The Government must again request the Chief Engineer to state the correct date of sanction to the Bridges in question.

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

No. 875

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Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works Fort St. George

Under date the 3d June 1857.

Read the following letter

No. 133

Superintending Engrs Office
Southern Circle
Camp Calicut 11th May 1857

From

Major E. Lawford,
Superintending Engineer
Southern Circle

To

Colonel C. E. Faber,
Chief Engineer, D. P. W.
Fort St. George

No. 133.

Sir,

With reference to your order No. 105 of the 5th Instant, I have the honor to inform you that nothing can be done for improving the Sispparah Ghaut till after the monsoon, and I have advised Lieut Bean to defer any examination of it for the present.

2. If an estimate for improving the Ghaut is to be made by the Engineer Department it will assuredly exceed the sum proposed by the Acting Collector

Collector, and unless the work is executed between the monsoons all the measurements will require revision. I should not myself think that any effectual good can be done under 10,000 Rupees, but if the Government should be disposed to spend 1,000 Rupees in clearing jungle, slight levelling, and such petty repairs, I have no doubt that Mr Robinson would effect a considerable clearance of the road, which is at present much infested by wild beasts. I would recommend therefore that application be made to Government for an intimation of their views on this point, and especially as to the extent of improvement they are prepared to sanction. There can be no doubt of the utility of the communication with the hills by this route which will not be entirely superseded by the Barcoor line, and the Coffee estates at Wallaghaut merit some consideration.

3. The two bridges referred to were sanctioned on the 8th April and 6th May 1856 for 1100 & 1030 Rupees respectively

4. Copy of this letter has been forwarded to the District Engineer, and I have been in communication with Mr Robinson on the subject

I have &c.

Signed C. Lawford

Supt Engr Sn Circle

Resolved

5th

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter No 133 of the 11th May 1857, from the Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, recommending that the Collector of Malabar be allowed a thousand Rupees, for clearing jungle, slight levelling & petty repairs to the Sispara Ghaut, be forwarded for the orders of Government

2 It is observed that Major Lawford apparently either loses sight of the cessation of Executive functions in the Revenue Authorities, or else that he considers, and probably justly, that the case is an exceptional one, requiring a more prompt and influential Agency than that of the District Engineer but newly invested with Executive duties, and as yet imperfectly acquainted with Malabar. The sum of Rupees 1,000 recommended will probably be far from inconsiderable though without any character of permanence.

/True Extract/

A.E. Fisher Colonel

Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Ex. 33

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Pub: Works Dept.

No 1257

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 26th June 1857.

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer.

(Received 3rd June 1857 No 875.)

Extract Minutes

of Consultation of the 2nd May last No 847, the Government referred to the Chief Engineer for report a proposition made by the Acting Collector of Malabar for improving the bad parts of the lower six miles of the Tellicherry & Cannanore road, at an outlay of Rupees 1000, and enquiring what at the same time would be due to the date of sanction to the two Bridges on the road to the foot of the Ghaut referred to in the Collector's letter. With the

Extract Proceedings Chief Engineer dated 1st June 1857 No 875.

Submitted by the Secretary to Govt.

P.W.D.

Dated 3rd June 1857.

Read 4th June 1857

Ordered,

That the order of Government, dated 2nd May 1857 No 847, a letter from the Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, recommending that the following allowances be allowed Rupees (1000) one thousand, for clearing jungle, slight levelling, &c. necessary to the efficient & safe

Copy Received 23rd

the Proceedings above recorded, the Chief Engineer forwarded, but without making any reference to the order of 2nd Inst., a letter from the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle, stating that nothing short of Rupees 10,000 would suffice for effectually improving the Ghaut, but that if Rupees 1,000 the sum asked for by the Collector be sanctioned, that officer would be enabled to effect a considerable clearance of the road. The Superintending Engineer therefore wishes that Government should state their views as to the extent of improvement which they are prepared to sanction.

2 The Chief Engineer, without noticing the several points put forth in Major Lawford's letter, merely solicits the orders of Government on the proposition to expend a sum of Rupees 1,000 in clearing jungle, and executing small repairs to the Ghaut, observing that the benefits of the outlay would be "far "from inconsiderable, though "without any character of "permanence".

3 The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is unable to gather from the papers before him whether the Rupees 1,000 the sum mentioned by Major Lawford as likely to be required for improving the Ghaut, refers to the entire Ghaut, or only to the bad parts of the six miles repotion of by the Collector, and he is precluded therefore from sanctioning either this sum, or that recommended for petty repairs, viz Rupees 1,000. Under all the circumstances of the case, the Government are of opinion that an examination should be

be made of the Shank, and a
report submitted on its condition
specifying
the important places it con-
nects, its entire length, the
extent that is in good order, and that
requiring repair or improve-
ment. A sketch map should
also be submitted shewing the
direction of the Shank. On
receipt of these papers, the
Government will be prepared
to consider the measures
necessary for
restoring or improving the
Shank, including the six miles
reserved to by the Collector, but
more repairs to it should be
authorized by the Chief Engineer
out of the funds provided for
the purpose in the Budget.

4. By the remark in the
Superintending Engineer's letter
that with the sum of Rupees
1200 the Collector would be
enabled to effect a considerable
clearance

clearance of the road, that
officer would seem to have
lost sight of the circumstance
of the cessation in the Revenue
Authorities of executing
sanctions in connection with
Public Works. The Govern-
ment wish Major Crawford
to understand distinctly that
the Engineer Authorities are
alone competent to carry out
Public Works, and that beyond
the issue of funds, the Collector
should have no concern with
the execution.

In respect to the
enquiry made in the Order of
2nd May regarding the two
Bridges, Major Crawford
states that the works were
sanctioned on the 8th April and
6th May 1856. These sanctions
are not found on the records
of this Department, and if
care had been taken in the
Chief Engineer's Office to have

the

the dates verified, they would no doubt have been found to be erroneous. The Government must again request the Chief Engineer to state the correct date of donation to the Bridges in question.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr.

P.W.C. 5th May/57. No 7314

Public Works &c Dept.
Do to Coss 30th April/57.

No 1257.

Collector of Coss:
Dy 26th June/57.
Sir Chief Engr to Govt Fort St George
in Mily Dept

Requesting orders on a letter from the Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, recommending that the Collector of Malabar be allowed Rs 1,000 for clearing jungle, slight levelling, and petty repairs to the Tirur parrah Ghaut.

No 41 to 42.