1. Number of pages 1-12
2. Date of repair 12-7-
3. Initials of Reference

M.R.O. 1—82,409—22-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons 4-8-57

G.O. No. 1504 Press Mis.

Dated 4 — 8 — 18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 4th August 1857.

No. 81. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 22nd July 1857, No. 2251.

Read the following letter from Captain P. M. FRANCIS, District Engineer Coimbatore; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Coimbatore, 2nd July 1857, No. 128.

Received 23rd June 1857.

SIR,

I have given my best attention to the consideration of the subject of Railway inclines to Coonoor, included in your Resolution, No. 1360, dated 19th June 1857, I could hardly undertake single handed such a work as the examination of the Coonoor and neighbouring ravines, in addition to the General duties of the District, with hope of doing justice to both, and besides, I have no experience on the subject of Railway inclines, but I think it possible that with the assistance of a good Surveyor (and perhaps Mr. Thomas who has returned from his visit to the Neilgherries might be able, before long, to spare Sub Engineer Williams for the purpose) and the aid of an Engineer of mechanical experience, I should be able to carry out the wishes of Government by making a thorough examination of the country, and drawing out the working scheme in detail in order to ascertain the cost. It would aid me in arriving at a more perfect idea of the best way of performing the work, if I could be put in communication with Captain Moorsoom, Royal Engineers, who, I believe, has lately designed the Railway from Columbo to Kandy, and if it had been at a different season of the year, I should have been inclined to ask permission to visit the Railroad over the Bore Ghaut, it would be advantageous, nevertheless, if I could correspond with the Bombay Government Consulting Engineer on the subject of those inclines.

2. I saw lately a short notice that a temporary Railway over the Alleghany Mountains during the construction of a tunnel had been worked at an incline of 1 in 18, it was made in Zigzag and the train backed up the alternate turns. The Railway incline on the Coonoor Ravine must be made in Zigzag to give a moderate gradient. Lieutenant Haig might be requested to observe and note any thing that come in his way in America, and in regard to Railway inclines the gradients and method of working them.

3. I have not had time to receive an official answer from Mr. Fraser yet on the subject of Officers, but I gather from a Demi official letter that he considers Mr. Merrell, of the Kistna District, the only one of the Civil Engineer's likely to be competent to work out such a project; but he evidently leans to the notion of my working out the examination of the country, assisted by Mr. Moncrieff in the Engineering arrangements, and bearing in mind that the Government might perhaps fix upon this Officer to establish workshops at Coimbatore, in reference to the projected reservoirs for irrigation purposes now being planned by Mr. Fraser, I would propose that arrangement for your favorable consideration.

4. Mr. Fraser's projected reservoirs, (on the Hills) Plans and estimates have been delayed by bad weather and sickness of his Assistants. I apprehend they will not be submitted till early next month when the Government will probably decide on the subject of the workshops, and they will perhaps consider the question of Mr. Moncrieff's appointment in connection therewith, and with the Railway incline subject.

Resolved to forward copy of the foregoing letter for the information of Government, with an expression of the Chief Engineer's opinion, that Captain Francis should not be employed in the duty of estimating for the inclined Railway up the Coonoor Ravine, as such duty must interfere with the General arrangements of the District. It is the Chief Engineer's opinion that only an Engineer *practically* acquainted with the working of inclined Railway's can satisfactorily report on this project.

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

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 4th August 1857.

No. 82. ORDER THEREON, No. 1504; dated 4th August 1857.

As it appears that Captain Francis will not be able to investigate the project for laying a rail up the Coonoor Ghaut, without impediment to the general duties of the Coimbatore District, the Chief Engineer is requested to keep the project in view, and to detach an Officer on that duty when the services of one, possessing the requisite qualifications may be available.

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

No. 2251 38

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works. Fort St. George
Under date the 22nd July 1857

Read the following letter

No. 128.

District Engr's Office
Coimbatore 2nd July 1857

From
Captain P. M. Francis
District Engineer Coimbatore

To
Colonel C. F. Faber
Chief Engr &c &c
Fort St. George

Sir,

Rec'd 25th June /57

I have given my best attention to the consideration of the subject of Railway inclines to Coonoor, included in your Resolution No. 1360 dated 9th June 1857, I could hardly undertake single handed such a work as the examination of the Coonoor and neighbouring Ravines, in addition to the general duties of the District, with hope of doing justice to both; and besides, I have no experience on the subject of Railway inclines, but I think it possible that with the

assistance

assistance of a good Surveyor / and perhaps Mr Thomas who has returned from his visit to the Neilgherries might be able, before long, to spare Sub Engineer Williams for the purpose / and the aid of an Engineer of mechanical experience, I should be able to carry out the wishes of Government by making a thorough examination of the Country, and drawing out the working scheme in detail in order to ascertain the Cost. It would aid me in arriving at a more perfect idea of the best way of performing the work, if I could be put in communication with Captain Moorsom, Royal Engineers, who, I believe has lately designed the Railway from Columbo to Kandy, and if it had been at a different season of the year, I should have been inclined to ask permission to visit the Railroad over the Bore Ghauts — it would be advantageous, nevertheless, if I could correspond with the Bombay Government Consulting Engineer on the Subject of those inclines.

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3. I have not had time to receive an official answer from Mr Fraser yet on the subject of officers, but I gather from a Demi official letter that he considers Mr Merrell, of the Kistna District, the only one of the Civil Engineers likely to be competent to work out such a Project, but he evidently leans to the notion of my working out the examination of the Country, assisted by Mr Mancieg in the Engineering arrangements, and bearing in mind that the Government might perhaps fix upon this Officer to establish workshops at Coimbatore, in reference to the projected Reservoir for irrigation purposes now being planned by Mr Fraser. I would suppose that arrangement for your favorable Consideration.

Mr

4. Mr Fraser's projected Reservoirs, on the Hills, Plans and Estimates have been delayed by bad weather and sickness of his Assistants. I apprehend they will not be submitted till early next month when the Government will probably decide on the subject of the workshops, and they will perhaps consider the question of Mr Mc Cheyne's appointment in connection therewith, and with the Railway incline subject.-

Combatoor
20th July/87

Have pr
Lieut. P. M. Francis
Dy Asst Commissariat

Resolved to forward Copy of the foregoing letter for the information of Government, with an expression of the Chief Engineer's opinion, that Captain Francis should not be employed in the duty of estimating for the inclined Railway up the Coonoor Ravine, as such duty must interfere with the General arrangements of the District. It is the Chief Engineer's opinion that only an Engineer practically acquainted with the working of inclined Railways can satisfactorily Report on this proj

True Extract

Lt Col
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

Comp 27

91

No 1504. P.W.D.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 4th to 7th July, 1857.

Read the following

Extract from the Proceedings

of the Chief Engineer:

/ Here enter 22nd July 1857 N 2251 /

As it appears

that Captain Francis will

not be able to investigate

the project for laying a rail

up the Coonoor Ghaut, —

without impediment to the

general duties of the

Coimbatore District, the

Chief Engineer is requested

to keep the project in view,

and to detach an officer on

that duty when the services

of one, possessing the requisite

qualifications

Dated Cuns 23rd July 1857 Published in Gen. Order No. 250 Dated 28th July 1857

Rec'd 25th Aug 1857

Rec'd 23rd July 1857 No 2251

Cuns 23rd July 1857

Sir,

I am directed by the Commander in Chief to forward for the information of Government a letter from Lieut. Colonel Pasley, Chief Engineer in the Nilgiris, reporting the arrival at Ootacamund of Captain Francis, Chief Engineer of the Railway undertaking from Metapollium to Coonoor, and to request that Captain Francis may be allowed to carry out the survey of the Railway undertaking from Metapollium to Coonoor.

2. Captain Francis's plan for the survey is approved by the Commander in Chief, and Captain Francis is authorized to employ the establishment of Draftsmen and Khalasies required in the survey, at the rates sanctioned for the Railway undertaking from Metapollium to Coonoor.

I have &c.

(Sd) [illegible]

Secy to Govt

To

The Secretary to Government

Fort St George

Forwarded for the information of Government a letter from Lieut. Colonel Pasley, Chief Engineer in the Nilgiris, reporting the arrival at Ootacamund of Captain Francis, Chief Engineer of the Railway undertaking from Metapollium to Coonoor, and requesting that Captain Francis may be allowed to carry out the survey of the Railway undertaking from Metapollium to Coonoor.

2. Captain Francis's plan for the survey is approved by the Commander in Chief, and Captain Francis is authorized to employ the establishment of Draftsmen and Khalasies required in the survey, at the rates sanctioned for the Railway undertaking from Metapollium to Coonoor.

I have &c.

(Sd) [illegible]

Secy to Govt

Ootacamund 21st July 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for the information of Government a letter from Captain Francis, Chief Engineer of the Railway undertaking from Metapollium to Coonoor, reporting his arrival at Ootacamund, and requesting that he may be allowed to carry out the survey of the Railway undertaking from Metapollium to Coonoor.

2. I have the honor to request that Captain Francis's plan for the survey may be approved by the Commander in Chief, and that Captain Francis may be authorized to employ the establishment of Draftsmen and Khalasies required in the survey, at the rates sanctioned for the Railway undertaking from Metapollium to Coonoor.

I have &c.

(Sd) [illegible]

Lieut. Colonel

Chief Engineer in the Nilgiris

To

The Secretary to Government

Fort St George

Dated Ootacamund 21st July 1857

Rec'd 23rd July 1857

No 2251

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of Government my arrival at Ootacamund on the 21st instant, and to request that I may be allowed to carry out the survey of the Railway undertaking from Metapollium to Coonoor.

I have &c.

(Sd) [illegible]

Captain

Engineer

To

Lieut. Colonel

Chief Engineer in the Nilgiris

Ootacamund

qualifications, ~~he~~ may be available.

A Copies to the Chief Engr
Offrs

Public Works 1857 Deptt.
Copy 4th August

No 1504.

Extract Mins. of Cons.
of 4th August 57.

(Requesting the Chief Engineer to keep the project in view, for laying a rail. upon the Connor Grant, and to detach an Officer on that duty, when the services of one possessing the requisite qualifications, may be available.

No 81482.

24 July to 21 Augt.