MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. (Press Mis.

Dated 19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 14. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, dated 12th October 1858, No. 4449.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit for the sanction of Government, an estimate amounting to Rupees (2,750) two thousand seven hundred and fifty, providing for laying down 9 inch Cast Iron-Pipes, on the plan of an inverted syphon, for conveying water across, the Elk-Hill cutting, or sunken Road, between Ootacamund and Conoor, on the Neilgherry Hills.

1 Copy of letter.
1 Abstract Estimate.

2. The Estimate sanctioned on the 6th of October 1853, for opening out this cut included an item for Iron Piping for conveying the water across it, for the supply, of two Houses called "Elk-Hill-House" and "Shoreham," formerly the property of Mr. Norton, Advocate General, to whom the sole right in this stream, was granted by Government, and restoring to the present owners* of these Houses, their right in the supply, which had been cut off, on the formation of the Sunken Road or Elk-Hill cutting, as it is now called; the money, however, was all expended on the cutting and no permanent piping was laid down; it was afterwards considered advisable to set up a temporary Lattice Bridge an item for which was included in the amount viz., Rupees 10,200 sanctioned by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation dated 14th September 1855 No. 538 for widening the cut to convey the water in an open pipe or trough across, till it was determined what quantity would be required for the supply generally of the Houses to the South of Ootacamund for the investigation of which Project the Collector of Coimbatore had received sanction to the amount of Rupees 400; the Lattice Bridge was built, but I am sorry to say, failed on account of the subsequent widening of the cut, destroying its relative proportions of length and depth, and the supply was consequently cut off.

* Major General Dowker, Colonel Hadfield.

3. Notwithstanding the previous failure, Government again in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1337 under date the 11th July 1857, sanctioned an Estimate amounting to Rupees 300 (simply as an act of justice) for restoring the supply of water cut off by a Government work; This estimate proved insufficient to accomplish the object in view, on account of the rise in prices of labor and materials; a Carpenter at Ootacamund demanding at that time (when the construction of the Jackatalla Barracks had been ordered) 1 Rupee per diem, at Jackatalla receiving 8 annas per diem with Batta.

4. As therefore the owners of these two Houses have had their supply of water from this stream entirely cut off, (by the execution of a Government work) the sole right to which, having been originally granted by Government, to Mr. Norton, the former Proprietor of the House, I would beg most strongly to recommend the accompanying estimate for sanction involving, it may be said, rather a large outlay, but which I believe will at once render justice to the owners of these two Houses and accomplish the Government intention of providing for a supply of water generally to the Houses on the South of Ootacamund; this I believe will result in a permanent settlement of all disputes on the subject, and all further trouble to Government. It would be only fair though, that such an advantage to the Inhabitants on the South side of Ootacamund, should be accompanied, by some small return to Government, under the head of a fixed-water rate, the amount of which might be settled by the Collector and District Engineer.

Letter from WILLIAM FRASER, Esq., Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore; to the Chief Engineer, dated Coimbatore 29th September 1858, No. 138.

SIR,

General Dowker and Colonel Hadfield of Ootacamund lately addressed the Collector on the subject of the cutting off the supply of water from their Houses by the Elk-Hill cutting.

2. They applied to the Collector previously to laying their case before Government, and the Collector brought the matter before me, and thus I have the honor of again addressing you on the subject.

3. It is quite clear from the statements they make that Elk-Hill-House and Shoreham-House are entitled to water from the stream severed by the Elk-Hill cutting.

4. The lands were granted by Government to the late Advocate General Mr. George Norton and there is little doubt but that the right to the water course was granted also, at all events the right was admitted by the fact that General Dowker was paid 18 Rupees per month from the time of the cutting of the stream up to the end of April 1857 to indemnify him for the loss of the water. He was paid nothing since that date.

5. On the 11th July 1857 a sum of Rupees 300 was granted to put up a temporary continuance for carrying the water across, and when I had Executive charge of the Neilgherry Range I proposed a timber syphon at an estimate of 1,200 Rupees the materials for which were partly prepared.

6. About Rupees 277 were spent on the proposed temporary measure, but the balance of the 300 Rupees would not complete it.

7. You disapproved of the timber syphon and recommended a metal one instead.

8. A metal syphon is no doubt the best way to carry the water across, but there would probably be great delay in getting the pipes cast and it would cost much more than a timber syphon which if properly made of proper timber would last a long time.

9. What are we to do, shall we.

1. Resume payment of water-men for General Dowker and Colonel Hadfield at about 30 Rupees per month or
2. Complete the temporary plan of carrying the water over which would cost about 250 Rupees or
3. Construct a timber syphon at 1,200 Rupees or
4. Order pipes for a metal syphon, nine inch Pipes would do and about 200 feet would be required.

10. I would recommend the construction of the permanent syphon at once and I think it is probable that if General Dowker and Colonel Hadfield were aware that an order to this effect were given, they would not seek payment for water-men during the time of its construction.

No. 15. ORDER THEREON, No. 2660; dated 8th December 1858.

Under the circumstances represented in the above letter, the Government sanction for entry in the Budget Statement No. 2 of 1859-60, the estimate amounting to Rupees 2,750, for laying down 9 inch cast Iron pipes for conveying water across the Elk Hill cutting at Ootacamund to the two houses called Elk Hill House and Shoreham at present the property of General Dowker as well as to the houses generally on the South of Ootacamund.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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3-5-05

Public Works 1558 Letter
Dt to Govt: 14th Decr

No 2415.

From Offg Chief Engr
Dt 12th October 1858.

From the Chief Engineer
31 August 1807 C. No 1982 in

Submits for sanction an Estimate amounting to Rs 2750, for laying down 9 inch cast Iron pipes on the plan of an inverted Syphon for conveying water across the 6th Mile Hill cutting at Colaccamand-

No 14475.

Written Order.