M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 14

(2) Date of repair 7-4-38

(3) Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cir 25/11/58

G.O. No. 196 Press Mis.

48-49

Dated 20-1- 1858.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 48. Read the following letter from Major R. STRACHEY, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Fort William, the 3rd December 1858, No. 6027.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2186 of the 18th October relative to the proposed construction of a road from the Malabar Coast to the Neilgherries, and in reply I am to inform you that, at this time, the Government of India cannot sanction any expenditure on the project in question.

2. The Honorable President in Council observes that in the present state of things, when works of real and pressing public importance in rich provinces are at a stand for want of funds, it would be very blameable to spend money on a new road to a Hill Sanatarium which already possesses several.

3. The Plan is returned as requested.

No. 49. Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

From J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; to Major R. STRACHEY, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, dated 20th January 1859, No. 196.

SIR

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 3rd December 1858, No. 6027, communicating the refusal of the Government of India to sanction the expenditure proposed in Mr. Pycroft's letter dated 18th October 1858, No. 2186, for the trace of a road from Mambat on the Beypoor river in Malabar to the Mysore frontier, with a branch to Ootacamund. This refusal is grounded on the supposition that the road in question is intended only as an approach to the Sanitarium on the Neilgherry Hills; and the Government of India remark that while works of pressing importance in rich Provinces are at a stand still for want of funds, it would be very blameable to spend money on a road for such a purpose. This Government fully agree with the Government of India that a road from the West Coast to the Hills as a Sanitarium, must be looked upon, at the present juncture as unimportant. But the recommendation was based on totally different grounds; and I am desired to offer the following explanation of the real object and effect of the proposed road, in the hope that the Government of India may be induced to reconsider their decision.

2. The road in question was projected and intended solely as a line of communication passing through a rich and rapidly improving country, that of Wynaud in Malabar, and of the upper slopes of the Neilgherry range, and as opening access to a Sea Port, for the produce of that Tract of Country, as well as of the Southern part of Mysore. The peculiarity of the Wynaud is that after having been up to a few years ago regarded as extremely feverish and unhealthy to Europeans, it attracted the attention of English settlers on account of its great suitability to the growth of Coffee, and that a large number, above thirty it is believed, of English planters have now established themselves in it and have formed extensive Coffee Plantations, extending nearly to the top of the Neilgherries. It has been found that every clearance of Jungle has improved the climate, and it is likely that the tract will be increasingly resorted to by settlers. Extreme difficulty however is felt by the planters in transporting their produce; and as a proof of the estimation in which the project is held by those thus interested in it, I am to solicit attention to the fact of an offer of Rupees 5,000 by the owner of a Plantation very near the summit of the range, in aid of the undertaking. In addition to the value of the road in this view, it will pass through some of the finest Teak forest in Malabar; and in extending to the Mysore Frontier, it will lay open to a Sea Port a fine Tract of Country now completely cut off from the coast by intervening Mountain and Jungle.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 25th January 1859.

3. The length of road to be made is altogether one hundred miles, the country traversed is in part "extremely difficult, being a series of defiles with high ridges between, running and twisting in all directions while many of the Valleys are swamps flooded during the wet season." The complete formation of the road is roughly estimated to cost 4¼ lacs of Rupees, and except for the existing Financial restrictions this Government would not hesitate to recommend the grant of this large sum; but at present they only propose to make a track practicable for loaded Bullocks. For this purpose it is proposed to improve at an expense of Rupees 7,500 those parts of the line where a road or track already exists, and to open to a width of eight feet a trace in those parts where there is now no road, on a line which has been carefully selected and marked out by a skilful Engineer. This is estimated to cost 15,000 Rupees making a total of Rupees 22,500. Thus by the outlay of this trifling sum a practicable though rude and primitive communication will be established over a distance of 100 miles; and considering the distance, the nature of the country, and the importance of the tract traversed, the Government are decidedly of opinion that it would be difficult to propose an expenditure which would tend more, in proportion to its amount to produce a valuable return. Under the foregoing explanation it is hoped that the Government of India will no longer withhold sanction for the small outlay proposed; and the working season in Malabar being extremely short, I am directed to request that the decision of the Government of India may be communicated by Telegraph.

No. 6027

From

Major R. Strachey

Offg. Secretary to the Govt of India

To

F. Pycroft Esquire

Chief Secretary to the Government

of Madras

Dated the 3rd December 1858

Pub. Works Deptt

Communications

Metalled Roads

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 2186 of the 18th October relative to the proposed construction of a road from the Malabar Coast to the Neilgherries, and in reply I am to inform you that, at this time, the Government of India cannot sanction any expenditure on the project in question.

2. The Hon'ble President in Council observes that in the present state of things, when works of real and pressing public importance in rich provinces are at a stand for want of funds, it would be very blameable to spend money on a new road to a Hill Sanatarium which already possesses several.

3

3. The Plan is returned as requested.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most Obt. Servant

W. Hendley
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India

Fort William
The 3d. December
1855

Sir. Dehli

No 106.

Capt. Macpherson to the Secy. to the Govt. of India

Cantonment

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying Plan and Report of Captain Macpherson, Superintending Engineer of Cis-Sutlej States, on the proposed improvement of the road from Umballa to Loodiana, and to request that you will be pleased to submit the same for the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council.

2. The Superintending Engineer has, after due consideration of the subject, recommended the adoption of the Trunk Road, as the most eligible line for the improvement of the communication between Umballa and Loodiana, and I am of opinion that the advantages of the Trunk Road over the Old Road, are sufficiently great to justify the expenditure of the additional sum required for the improvement of the former.

3. I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant

W. H. Macnaghten

Secy. to the Govt. of India

Fort William, 19th October 1838.

Cons: 19th Oct 1838 No 84680.

Public Works 18th Dec 15
Ditto Cons 25th Jany 1839.
No 3111.

From the Secy. to the Govt. of India

Dated 3d Dec 1838
Received 20th do 1838
No 6027

Declining to sanction the proposed construction of a road from the Malcabar Coast to the Neilgherries.

S.L.
No 196. 20th January 39.

Ordered to be communicated to the Officiating Chief Engineer with reference to Dr. Mcp: of even date 18th October 1838 No 3155.

W.A.B.

No 48

C24 Dec 6th Jany

on the Shilabeeny Hills;
and the Government of
India remarks that while
works of pumping mi-
portance in such pro-
vinces are of a tempo-
rary character, it would be more eligible
also to open communi-
cations by roads for general
purposes. The Govern-
ment fully agree with
the Government of India
that a road from the
West Coast to the Hills
as a Sanitarium, must
be looked upon, as
the present juncture
unimportant. But the
recommendation was
based on totally dif-
ferent grounds, and I
am desired to offer the
following explanation
of the real object and
effect of the proposed
road, in the hope that
the Court of Directors

as well as of the Southern part of Mysore.

we induced to reconsider
their decision.

2. The road in question
was projected and re-
garded solely as a line
of communication pass-
through a rich and
peopled but impoverish
country, that of Wynaad
in Malabar, and of the
upper slopes of the ste
of heavy ranges, and as
opening access to a
new port, for the produce
of that Forest of country
The peculiarity of
the Wynaad
is that after having
been open to a few years
ago regarded as extreme
ly pernicious and unhealth
to Europeans, is attracted
the attention of English
settlers on account of its
great suitableness to the
growth of coffee, and that
a large number, almost
thirty it is believed, of
English planters have
now

"
now established themselves in it and have formed extensive coffee plantations. It has been found that every clearance of jungle has improved the climate, and it is highly likely that the road will be increasingly recorded to by settlers. Extensive disposals however is left by the planters in transporting their produce; and in proof of the estimation in which the project is held by those interested in it,

Thus

Short, I am to solicit a reduction to the grant by an offer of Rs 5,000 by the owner of a plantation very near the Commissioner's office range in lieu of the undertaking.

3. The length of road to be made is altogether one hundred miles; the country traversed is in parts extremely difficult, being a series of defiles with high ridges between running and twisting in all directions while many of the valleys are swamps flooded during the wet season. The complete formation of the road is roughly estimated to cost 4½ lakhs of Rupees, and except for the existing unusual restrictions this sum would not be a mistake to recommend the grant of this large sum; but as present they are by no means prepared to make a track practicable for loaded bullocks. For this purpose it is proposed to spend an expense of Rs 7,500 in those parts of the line where a road or track is already open

4. In addition to the value of the wood in this way it will help through some of the finest teak forest in Malabar; and, in extending to the Mysore Frontier, it will lay open a free to a Sea Port boat country now completely cut off from the coast by intervening Mountains & jungle.

open to a width of
eight feet a trace on
those parts where there
is now no road or a
line which has been care-
fully selected and
marked out by a Skil-
ful Engineer. This is
estimated to cost 15000
Rupees making a total
of Rupees 22500. Thus by
the outlay of this trifling
sum a proportion of the
though
sum of land permanent
communication may
be established over a
distance of 60 miles,
And considering the
distance, the nature
of the country, and the
importance of the trade
to be served, the Commissioners
are decidedly of opinion
it would be difficult to procure an
~~equal~~ existing outlay
~~which would~~ would
which would more
in proportion with
our must be produced

a valuable return
Under the foregoing re-
commendations it is hoped
that the Government of
India will be enabled
to sanction so small
an outlay for
the small and easy
labour, and the ensuing
season in Balaklava
Bay extensively about
Jan devoted to repair
that the decision of the
Government of India
may be communicated
by telegraph.

Fort St. George
20th January 1859

Sd

Public Works Dep.t 1859 Dep.t
Fort St. Geo.e 25.th January.

No. 196.

To the Offg. Secretary to the
Government of India.
Fort St. 20.th January 59.

From - Do - 15.th Feby 1859
Cons.- 15.th March - 78-79

Requesting sanction for the annual outlay stated in 22.500 for the Conservancy Establishment on the Beypoor river in Malabar & the Mysore Frontier, with a remark to Colonel Cullen that the decision regarding it may be communicated by the Telegraph as the working season in Malabar being very short.

No. 48 to 49.