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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cont. 8-3-59

G.O. No.	508	Press Mis.
Dated	7-3-59	1859

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Handwritten signature and date
20-11-59

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 8th March 1859.

No. 64. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 23rd February 1859, 732.

Communicating letter from the Commissary General, reporting his opinion on the cost of the Transport establishment for conveyance of Ordnance and Commissariat Stores from Masulipatam to Nagpore. } (Vide Military Consultation, 25th February 1859, Nos. 167-168.)

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, No. 508; dated 7th March 1859.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer for information with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 11th February 1859, No. 370.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 732.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 23rd February 1859.

Read letter from the Commissary General, Madras, 11th February 1859, No. 30; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Minutes No. 324, dated 24th January 1859. of Consultation, referring for my early observations, the 3rd para of a letter 7th December 1858, from the Commandant of Engineers to your address.

2. The calculations made of the cost of the Transport Establishment, for conveyance of Ordnance and Commissariat Stores, as exhibited in my letter No. 165, 10th November 1858. to you, are substantially correct, and are based on the expectation that there would be a large demand for the return Carts.

3. The Officers of this Department at Secunderabad and Masulipatam, were I think fully justified in encouraging expectations that such would be the result of the Establishment of the Transit Carts, for the whole country had been drained of the ordinary means of conveyance, in order to supply the wants of the Army in the Field, and the Transit Establishment held out peculiar advantages to the Merchants, and to those who might feel disposed to take advantage of the return Carts, both from the low rates of hire compared with what had existed previously, and the expeditious mode of conveyance; I do not think it necessary therefore, to alter in any way, the calculations already made by me.

4. Those received by the Commandant of Engineers from the Deputy Commissary General, were un-official, and ought to have been laid aside in the presence of the Official Statement.

5. The Transit Establishment was a necessity arising from the impossibility of procuring carriage in any other way, the owners of Carts having the utmost repugnance to proceed to advanced stations from which they saw no chance of returning.

6. It is in fact the most economical and expeditious mode of transporting Stores that could have been adopted under the circumstances to which the ordinary means of Transport had been reduced.

7. In ordinary and peaceful times, the hire of a Cart from Masulipatam to Kamptee is Rupees 37, or Annas 2-2- $\frac{1}{8}$ per ton per mile.

8. To have laid the Transit aside at once, and to have had recourse to the Godavery in its present state, whilst an Army in the Field was dependent for its safety and existence on the speedy and certain despatch of its food and munitions of War, would in my opinion have been extremely injudicious, and would have involved a most unjustifiable risk.

9. No one doubts for a moment, the superior economy and other advantages of a water route when fairly established, but assuredly, the Godavery in its present state cannot be considered as offering all the facilities of water carriage towards Kamptee, which are desirable.

10. In obedience to the orders of Government, I have been in communication with the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, on an experiment to be made in the conveyance of shot up the Godavery, of which he has requested me to despatch 333 tons. I have been also in communication with three intelligent Officers of this Department on the subject of the transport of these shot, viz. Captain Webb at Secunderabad, Captain Young at Masulipatam, and Captain Ranken at Kamptee. From these Officers' reports, it appears that there are few or no Carts suited for the transport of Stores to be had at Mahadeopore, the present extreme Terminus, from which, unless the District Engineer, whose letter is appended to this, is able to get Carts at Budrachellum, the Stores would require to be des-

Dated 5th January 1859. patched by land to Kamptee and Secunderabad,—Mahadeopore is on the high road from Kamptee to Secunderabad, and about the same distance from the latter place as Budrachellum, where also there are said to be no Carts, and would become, when the navigation of the river is interrupted, the Terminus from which both stations would be supplied. For the transport of these shot, it must be observed that between 600 and 700 Carts would be required.

11. A contract could be made for the conveyance of these shot from Mahadeopore to Kamptee, at the rate of 28 Rupees per Cart, or above 56 Rupees per ton; but it would require several months to obtain the Carts, and they could only be available during the dry season, for all communication is cut off as regards transport of Stores between Mahadeopore and Kamptee during the Monsoon, or from June to October; therefore it would be necessary to send the Stores up the River during the Monsoon, and they should be collected at Mahadeopore by the month of October, to be forwarded as soon as the road such as it is, becomes practicable to a distance of about 240 miles.

12. Notwithstanding all this discouragement, I have suggested to the Inspector General of Ordnance, that he should apply for freight for the 333 tons of shot to Cocanada, where the Master Attendant would see them landed and transhipped to the River Steamers, after which they would be under charge of the Engineer's Department attached to the navigation of the River, as suggested by the Commandant of Engineers, till they reach Mahadeopore, from whence, efforts will be made to forward them on before the Monsoon sets in, and as the shot are not liable to injury by exposure, they may safely be allowed to remain at Mahadeopore to await the success of exertions to obtain Carts.

13. An Officer of this Department will proceed about the same time up the Godavery, and will personally ascertain what real obstacles exist to using the Godavery generally for the transport of Military Stores.

14. I may here mention, that on looking again at my Estimate, of the quantity of Commissariat Stores likely to be despatched annually, I see no occasion to alter the amount of Tonnage I had mentioned, viz. 700 tons.

15. The Inspector General has informed me, that there will be about 1,200 tons of Ordnance Stores requiring conveyance annually, so that there will be something short of 2,000 Tons from both Departments.

From the District Engineer Godavery Division, Nursapoor, 5th January 1859; to the Assistant Commissary General, Masulipatam.

In reply to your letter No. 1321 dated 29th ultimo, I have the honor to state, that I am not myself sufficiently acquainted with the country in the neighbourhood of Mahadeopore, to say what number of Bandies are procurable there.—But if Stores are to be forwarded by the Godavery through my agency, I have no doubt that I could make arrangements for their transmission.—Mahadeopore lies on the direct road from Hyderabad to Nagpore.

From Budrachellem to Secunderabad there is no regular made road, but I am given to understand, that there is a constant traffic between the two places—and that most part of the line lies over favorable soil I could manage to supply carts from Budrachellum.

Communicated to the Commander-in-Chief, Department Public Works, Commandant of Engineers, Commissary General, and Inspector General of Ordnance, in continuation of Minutes of Consultation No. 324, dated 24th January 1859.

(True Extract and Copies.)

H. H. Schall

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

- „ Department Public Works *with 20 extra copies*
„ Commandant of Engineers.
„ Commissary General.
„ Inspector General of Ordnance.

Given: 15th July 1857 by 1857 by
a 25th June 1857 by 51-65
Looking in a letter to England
of 21st June 1857, 1857.

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Communicating letter
from the Commission
reporting his opinion on
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to Nagasore.

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