M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 16

(2) Date of repair 7.4.38

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con 15/3/1858

G.O. No. 542 Press / Mis.

29.30.

Dated 16—3—1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 15th March 1859.

No. 29. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Public Department, dated 9th February 1859, No. 211.

Referring to this Department transcripts of a Report and Enclosures from the Post Master General, on the discontinuance of the Northern Cart Mail. } (Vide Public Diary to Consultation, 15th February 1859, Nos. 2-3.)

No. 30. ORDER THEREON, No. 542; dated 11th March 1859.

Para. 1. The letter of the Officiating Post Master General, received with the above, brings to notice the discontinuance of the Northern Cart Mail, in consequence of the bad condition of the Road between Madras and Nellore.

2. On a previous representation respecting the state of this Road, the Government in Extract Minutes Consultation, 12th November 1858, No. 2382, authorized the immediate execution of whatever work might be necessary to facilitate the transit of the Mails, and directed that an Estimate for such work as could not be performed from the maintenance allowance, should in the meanwhile be prepared and submitted for sanction. Referring to the present representation of the Officiating Post Master, which will be communicated to the Central Office, the Government desire to be informed, under what circumstances this Road has been allowed to fall into its present state of deterioration, in comparison with what it was under the Trunk Road Department; this result would seem to be discreditable to the present management of the Road. It should also be explained what steps have been taken for its improvement, during the last three months on the order of the 12th November. Government would wish for a Report on the present condition of the Road, to shew among other things, what parts of it have never been completed, as for example, that at the Punnigardi back water. This Report may take for its text or starting point paras. 53 to 58 of the General Report of the Superintendent of Roads, for the year 1854-55.

3. The Government observe that an Estimate amounting to Rupees 48,100, for remetalling that portion of the Northern Trunk Road, situated in the Chingleput District, has already been entered in the Budget of 1859-60, and that in a separate communication of a recent date, the Chief Engineer has applied for an increase to the annual maintenance allowance for that portion.

From the Chief Engr., dated 12th February 1859, No 7804.

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

3a

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 211.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date the 9th February 1859.

Read the following letter from E. FANE, Esq., Officiating Postmaster General; to the Chief Secretary to Government, in the Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated 22nd January 1859, No. 4955.

SIR,

I have the honor to append for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council transcripts of a report and enclosures from the Postmaster General to the Officiating Director General of the Post Office in India on the discontinuance of the Northern Cart Mail.

I solicit the favor of being informed whether there is any prospect of the trunk road between Madras and Nellore being by an early date or within two or three months hence, placed again in such a state of repair as to justify my accepting a tender for the re-establishing of a Cart Mail, should any tender be made.

Messrs. Taylor and Co. have informed me that their cattle suffered much from the inverted arches which intersect the above road in several places, and not unfrequently caused such injury to their horses as to kill them. As I believe repairs are now being made, I take the liberty to submit for consideration whether regular bridges might not advantageously be substituted for the inverted arches, over which it is impossible to drive at any pace but a walk during night.

From R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Postmaster General; to the Officiating Director General of the Post Office in India, dated 31st December 1858, No. $\frac{1351}{1}$.

SIR,

I have the honor to report that under the authority conveyed to me in your docket No. 3284, dated 23rd March last, Messrs. Taylor and Co. took up the contract for the conveyance, in horsed carts of the Mails and Banghies between Madras and Nellore from the 15th June last.

2. The service has been hitherto satisfactorily performed notwithstanding the difficulties the contractors have met with owing to the bad state of the road.

3. These difficulties have of late very greatly increased and Messrs. Taylor and Co. having vainly endeavoured to surmount them have solicited me to release them from their engagement from the 1st proximo.

4. I append for your perusal and consideration copies of two communications from Messrs. Taylor and Co. on the subject, dated respectively the 30th November and 6th Instant.

5. Under the terms of their agreement, the contractors are bound to give six months' notice of their wish to withdraw; but in consideration of the facts below stated, I have informed them that I have no wish to impose any further burden on them and shall allow them to retire as soon as runners can be placed on the Line, but have given them clearly to understand that this permission is not final and that if you or the Government decide upon keeping them to the strict terms of the contract, they must be prepared to submit thereto.

6. In apprising you of the above, I beg to state that in my opinion it would, under all the circumstances of the case, be a great hardship to insist on Messrs. Taylor and Co. continuing longer on the road and that it will be better for all parties that the contract should drop.

7. As far as I can understand the road is in such a state that the carts are next to useless on it, and that the line over which the road is being taken is such as to ensure its being greatly damaged or rendered almost impracticable for the fast transit of conveyances in every monsoon, or whenever there is a heavier fall of rain than usual. It has had a fair trial and has proved a complete failure.

8. I have reason to believe that Messrs. Taylor and Co. have in no way failed in their efforts to carry out their contract effectively, and they have succumbed only to circumstances over

12

which they have had no control, viz., the impracticable state of the road, consequent on the floods of the two last monsoons, especially the last one.

9. I have here to observe that between the end of September and the latter end of November, the fall of rain throughout the greater part of the Madras Presidency and especially in those parts through which the lines of Cart-mail run, has been most extraordinarily heavy and protracted, injuring the roads to an immense extent, so much so that it is a matter of surprise that the carts were able to travel at all.

From Messrs. Taylor and Co., dated 24th June 1858.
Extract Minutes of Consultation, Public Department, dated 19th November 1858, *No.* 1434.
From Messrs. Taylor and Co., dated 27th October 1858, *and Extract Minutes of Consultation, Public Department, 1st December* 1858, *No.* 1477 *and 22nd Dec. No.* 1593.
From Messrs. Taylor and Co., dated 27th October 1858.

10. I enclose for your information copies of the correspondence noted in the margin, relating to the state of the Northern and Southern roads. I feel bound to recommend that runners be employed on the former until it is placed in a state practicable for rapid travelling in horsed conveyances. Disappointment and failure would be the only results of re-organizing a Cart Mail Establishment on the line in its present condition.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) FRED. J. JAMES,
Head Assistant
Postmaster General's Office.

From Messrs. TAYLOR and Co.; to the Post Master General of Madras, dated 24th June 1858.

SIR,

We beg to acquaint you that there are certain portions of the road from hence to Nellore which require repairs to enable us to convey the Mails and Banghies within the prescribed time, the time lost in transmission at present is entirely owing to the bad state of the roads, more especially after a fall of rain which has very frequently taken place since the 1st instant, the places which we would bring more prominently to your notice are the following:

Between the fourth and fifth mile stone the road is washed away, and very dangerous for our mail cart to pass over.

At the 11th mile stone a bridge is under repair and will not be finished for some time yet. At the 19th mile stone the road is under repair for about a quarter of a mile, at which place our carts are forced to go at the side, and below the road which is much cut up. Between the 32nd and 34th mile stone there is a salt water inlet, the sand of which is very deep, and a mile beyond, the road is in a very bad state and two hours detention takes place every day at that place.

At the 67th mile stone the road to the Naidoopett Post Office is in very bad order, and causes considerable delay. If the Post Office were situated nearer to the high road which is at that part in very good order it would save time to us, and would be much more convenient.

At the 82nd mile stone and at other places on the road the inverted arches are very dangerous to cross at night, there being no walls to any of them. If a horse were to shy a foot or two to either side and the cart be capsized, it would most probably be the cause of death to both horse and driver.

Between the 84th and 88th mile stone the road is in such a state with loose stones and black clay that our carts after a little fall of rain cannot go over the distance at a quicker pace than a walk; moreover the horses are much injured from the loose stones, over the greater portion of the whole distance. At the 92nd and 103rd mile stone a small bridge, and a portion of road under repair, which will not be finished perhaps for a month.

The above are some of the causes of delay in the conveyance of the mails and banghies up to this time, which we respectfully beg to bring to your notice.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) FRED. J. JAMES,
Head Assistant Postmaster General.

From Messrs. TAYLOR and Co.; to the Postmaster General, Madras, dated 30th November 1858.

SIR,

We beg to annex a Statement showing detentions of the Mails from Madras to Nellore, in consequence of the state of the roads, which are in some places so very bad as to force us to go a considerable distance off our way, before we can rejoin the made road, this takes sometimes an hour and a half to do, when it ought only to take a few minutes, and our horses and conveyances are very greatly injured by our having to go through paddy fields, thus entailing on us great loss of both horses and carriages. We have given the Northern road a fair trial, and we find that our losses in horses, and in the continual breaking of carriages are so great that we shall not with any benefit to ourselves be able to continue the contract any longer, than you can with convenience to yourself make other arrangements, to convey the Mails and Banghies to Nellore. We therefore most respectfully beg that you will kindly take our case into your immediate consideration, and grant us a release from our engagements, more especially as horses of the description required for Mail purposes are not at present to be procured and many of our horses from accidents caused by broken arches, and from over work, have died lately, and we have no means of re-placing them, but at prices which it would not answer our purpose to give.

MEMO.

1858.								Hours.	Minutes.
October	22nd	Mail detained at the South bank of the Cortullur.....						1	15
	23rd	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	0
	24th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	30
	24th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do.	do.	2	15
	26th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do.	do.	1	30
	27th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	0
	28th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do.	do.	0	45
	28th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do.	do.	1	15
	30th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	15
	31st	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	0	45
Nov.	12th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	2	0
	13th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	30
	14th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	2	15
	15th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	7	0
	16th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	11	30
	17th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	9	30
	18th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	6	15
	19th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	1	30
	21st	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	3	0
	22nd	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	2	30
	23rd	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	3	15
October	21st	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do.	Salt water Lake.....	1	0
	22nd	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	3	20
	23rd	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	2	30
	24th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do.	do.	4	15
	24th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do.	do.	2	15
	25th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do.	do.	3	30
	25th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do.	do.	2	45
	26th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do.	do.	4	15
	26th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do.	do.	1	50
	27th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do.	do.	3	15
	27th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do.	do.	1	30
	28th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	2	0
	28th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do.	do.	4	0
	29th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do.	do.	1	0
	30th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do.	do.	1	0
	31st	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do.	do.	1	30

1858.

							Hours.	Minutes.
Novr.	12th	Mail detained at the North bank of the Salt water Lake.					1	55
	13th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	2	0
	14th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	2	50
	15th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	4	30
	15th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do. do.	9	15
	16th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	6	15
	16th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do. do.	6	45
	17th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do. do.	6	0
	17th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do. do.	18	40
	18th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	8	45
	18th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	4	15
	19th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do. do.	8	15
	19th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do. do.	2	55
	20th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do. do.	6	55
	20th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	8	10
	21st	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do. do.	4	40
	21st	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do. do.	6	30
	16th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	4	20
	17th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. Soornamooky	10	40
	17th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	9	15
	22nd	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do. do.	9	0
	23rd	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	19	0
October	24th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	15	0
	26th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. Goodoor and Ramdoss	5	0
	31st	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	1	50
Novr.	2nd	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	1	15
	4th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	1	5
	20th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	1	5
	20th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	3	5
	15th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	2	0
October	23rd	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	4	0
	25th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. Inverted Arches	3	30
	26th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	3	15
	27th	Ditto	do.	do	do.	do. do.	3	15
	27th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do.	3	15
Novr.	22nd	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do. do.	2	0
	22nd	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do. Soornamooky	8	45
	23rd	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do. Salt water Lake	5	45
	23rd	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do. Soornamooky	7	30
	24th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. Salt water Lake	6	45
	24th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do. do.	5	10
	25th	Ditto	do,	do.	do.	do. Soornamooky	9	30
	25th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do. do.	12	0
	26th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. Salt water Lake	15	15
	27th	Ditto	do.	do.	North	do. do.	5	30
	28th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. Soornamooky	33	0
	28th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. do	19	30
	29th	Ditto	do.	do.	South	do. do.	35	15
	28th	Ditto	do.	do.	do.	do. Cottallar	4	30
							Salt water Lake 17	30

MADRAS,
30th November 1858.

(Signed) TAYLOR and Co.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) FRED. J. JAMES,
Head Asst. Postmaster General's Office.

7a

From Messrs Taylor, and Co.; to the Postmaster General, Madras, dated 6th December 1858.

SIR,

With reference to our letter of the 30th ultimo, in which we omitted to mention any particular date at which it was our wish that the contract should cease, we beg to acquaint you, that we have since heard from our Superintendents reporting the deaths of several Horses on the line, and the probability of a number more either dying or being altogether unfit for work again. We therefore, most respectfully beg the favor of your kindly releasing us from our engagement on the Northern road from the 31st Instant, and for this act of favor we shall feel very thankful.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) FRED. J. JAMES,
Head Assistant,
Postmaster General's Office.

Order.—Referred to the Public Works Department.

(True Extract and Copies.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Department Public Works.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

12

Pr. Cons. 16th Nov. 58-44-45
— do — 5th — do — 51-52
— do — 21st Decr. 58-53-54

Pub. Works 1859 Deptt.
Date Cons. 15th March.
No. 332

Extract from the Mins. of Cons. in the Public Deptt.

Dated 9th } February 1859
Received 12th }
No. 211

No. 29.

C 24th Feby R 8th March

Ex No. 542. 11th March 1859.

Referring to this Deptt. transcripts of a report and Enclosures from the Post Master General on the discontinuance of the Northern Cart-mail.

11a

No. 542

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 11th ~~February~~ March 1859

Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Public Department

(Here enter 9th February 1859 No. 211)

P.T. The letter of the Officiating Post Master General received with the above brings to notice the discontinuance of the Northern Cart-mail, in consequence of the bad condition of the road between Madras and Nellore.

2 On a previous representation respecting the state &c of this road, the Government in Extract Minutes Consultation

12th

12th November 1858 No. 2382 authorized the immediate execution of whatever work might be necessary to facilitate the transit of the mails, and directed that an estimate for such work as could not be performed from the maintenance allowance should in the meanwhile be prepared and submitted for sanction. Referring to the present representation of the Offg. Post Master, which will be communicated to the Central Office, the Government desire to be informed under what circumstances this road has been allowed to fall into its present state

of

of deterioration in comparison with what it was under the Trunk Road Dept., this result would seem to be discreditable to the present management of the road. It should also be explained what steps have been taken for its improvement during the last three months on the order of the 12th November. Government would wish for a report on the present condition of the road, to show among other things what parts of it have been completed, as for example that at the Cunnigarde backwater. This Report may take for its text or starting point Paras 53 to 58 of the General Report of the Superintendent of Roads for the year 1852/53.

The

3

The Government observe that an Estimate amounting to Rupees 48,100 for remetalling that portion of the Northern Trunk road situated in the Chingleput District has already been entered in the Budget of 1859/60; and that in a separate communication of a recent date, the Chief Engineer has applied for an increase to the annual maintenance allowance for that portion.

From the Chief Eng.r D/ 12th Feb.y 1859 No. 7804.

[signature]

10 Copies to the Chief Eng.r Dated 13th with E.M. O.P.D. No. 211.
5 — — — Pub. Department

Cons 16th Novemr/58 No 44-45
— 5th — — 57-52
— 21 Decemr — — 53-54

Public Works 1859 Deptt.
Dt to Cons 15th March

No 542.

Extract Mins of Cons.
Dt 11th March/59

From the Chief Engr 6th May/59
Ch 1165, Cons 10th June No 1-2.

No 29 & 30.

Desiring certain information as to the cause of the alleged bad condition of the Road between Madras and Nellore and what steps have been taken for its improvement during the last 3 Months on the order of the 12th Novr last fee and observing that the Chief Engineer has applied for an increase to the annual maintenance allowance for the portion of the Northern Trunk Road in the Chingleput District while

while an Estimate of Rs 48100 for remetalling that portion has already been entered in the Budget of 1859-60-

[illegible] Feby [illegible] Mark