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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

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General Office of the
Fort St. George
1st March 1859

N. 824/1

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government the

Public

Sir,

With reference to G.O. No. 329 dated 8th February 1859, showing the honor to submit a letter, Report and Statement received from the District Engineer of Madras, showing the amount required for the annual maintenance of roads in that District, and the amount already ordered to be expended in repairing the damages occasioned by the heavy rains in a May last. Captain Rymer explains also how far the Collector had expressed his concurrence in each case of expenditure and likewise submits copy of a letter from Mr. Clarke clearly conveying that gentleman's views as to the necessity of some immediate measures being adopted for the repair of the roads generally.

Enc. 9.

- 1 Original letter 1859
- 1 Report of the District Engineer
- 1 Statement
- 1 Copy of letter
- 1 Certificate
- 1 Copy of letter 1859
- 1 Report of the District Engineer
- 1 Certificate

In a second letter No. 1042
dated the 10th February 1889, Captain
Ripley / Parry begs to be informed if he
is to countermand the instructions already
given for the emergency repairs pending
the sanction of regular estimates and
explains that the floods of November
have greatly increased the damage
previously caused by those of May.

It is perhaps needless for me
to point out the utter inadequacy of
the discretionary allowance of £5000
to make the ordinary repairs of roads
throughout the large District of Masina
and how much less work it is, when
storms of unusual violence occur as
during the past year, and seeing the
practical difficulties under which the
local officers find themselves for
want of authority to expend money.
That early orders may be given
on the subject.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant

Wm. Fisher, Colonel
Chief Engineer
To The Secretary to Government
Camp III

N^o 6387

Read the following
letter from the Chief
Engineer.

Here enter 1 March 1859
528244

On the 8th Febru-
ary Government de-
clined to grant addi-
tional funds applied
for by the Chief Engineer
for the repairs of damage
caused to the roads in
Madura District by
heavy rain, in the in-
ter absence of infor-
mation as to the na-
ture and extent, or even
the

[Handwritten signature]

Draw: 8th 200/30 to 10.33 Vd4.

2000
 1859 Sept 20
 1860 March 25
 1864
 The Civil War
 1864 Aug. 10
 1864

Mar. 2nd March 1864
No. 2
J. C. H. H. H.

Ms. 8244
Feb 638. 18th March 49

Subjected with great
to the corresponding and
broken with blowing the current
removed from the creek and
obstruction of the water and
the same a body of water to
be spread in the spring the
damages examined by the
jury found on the fact
in the district of justice
and the suit early motion
in the district

Ms 66

28. March 1815.

the occurrence at all,
of such damage. The
information wanted
is supplied in the
present papers, being
contained in two letters
and their enclosures
from the District En-
gineer one written prior
to the date of the order,
viz on the 3^d February,
and the other after
the receipt of the order,
viz on the 15th idem.

2. The information
now supplied is fully
sufficient to prove the
very extensive damage
done to the roads in
Madura by the heavy
rains of last year, and
it is much to be re-
gretted, not only that

it did not accompany
the former applica-
tion, but that it was
not submitted and
an application for
money made, at a
much earlier time
still. The present Dis-
trict Engineer, who
joined the District
only ^{last} ~~on~~ August ~~1881~~
has displayed much
activity and zeal in
taking measures ~~to~~
^{for} ~~the~~ the repair of
the damage, and the
Governor in Council
has much pleasure
in thus acknowl-
ing his services, but
his efforts would have
had more success,
and he would have
had

had adequate funds
at a much earlier
date, if instead of
taking the irregular
course of ordering
the work on his own
authority, he had
come before Govern-
ment with a repre-
sentation of the matter.
3 In thus ac-
knowledging the
failure of the infor-
mation now supplied
by the District En-
gineer the Governor
in Council regrets
to have to add that
the papers are sent
up to Government
by the Chief Engineer
in a mass, without any
attempt at arrangement

or selection, and without
a word of definite sug-
gestion. A map of
the District
roads carefully pre-
pared, and with the
roads laid down & marked by
roads, estimates for repairs
and for maintenance,
the former to the amount
of 2½ lakhs, the latter
~~to the amount of~~ half
a lakh a year, all this
is sent up without a
word of opinion from
the Chief Engineer to
aid him in forming a
judgment on the
matters thus put be-
fore them. Colonel
Pater has before been
told that this is not
the proper way of doing
business. The Govt.
have a right to expect
from

from an officer in his
position, that in lay-
ing papers before them
he will discriminate
and select, and not
leave it to them to
deal with such masses
of unarranged material.

4. The Governor inform-
ed, resolves now to send
these papers back to
the Chief Engineer, with
instructions to consider
them, and then submit
definite recommenda-
tions as to the work proposed,
especially with reference to
the maintenance allowance.
The necessity of such al-
lowances is fully recognized,
and it is evident that
the absence of them in
Madagascar has now caused
great destruction

P

of property; that they must
from their very nature
be limited to such ex-
penditures with respect to
the estimates for im-
provement ^{works} ~~the~~ ~~work~~, Go-
vernment are precluded,
as Colonel Fraser well
knows, from entertaining
any projects of that char-
acter, except for works
really & undeniably urgent.
His recommendations
on these estimates will
therefore be guided by
that knowledge. In
determining what esti-
mates for improvement,
if any, to recommend, as well
as what annual main-
tenance allowances,
the

the Chief Engineer will not fail to take the opinion of the Collector as to the relative value of the several lines.

5 For the present year, and as it is certain that much special damage ~~has been~~ ^{has been} sustained by the roads, ~~last year~~ which must be met by special outlay, the Governor in Council grants twenty five thousand (25,000) Rupees for such repairs, inclusive of the sums already expended under the orders of the District Engineer, which amount

according to his list, to Rupees 11,759-8-0. The grant will be laid out in communication with the Collector, & only with his approval of the mode of distributing it to the various roads.

6 The Chief Eng^r will point out to the District Engineer that no such Statement is ought to leave his office without the being several columns duly totalled at the foot, and when Statements reach the central office in such a state, the

the amission should
either be made good
there, or they should
be returned for the
purpose to the Officers
from whom they came.

J. A.

10 Copies
To The Chief Engineer Dated 19th
with 4 Encls
3 — " — Board of Revenue " ✓
1 — " — Collector of the District " ✓

Public Works 1859 Dept.
D. to Cus: 22. March

No 638.

6
Extract of this of Cus.
D. 18th March/59.

From the Deputy Chief Engineer
to Secy of P. W. 1354 in

Granting 25,000 Rs for re.

pairing the damages sustained by
the heavy rains in May last in all roads
inclusive of the sums already expended
under the orders of the Dist. Engineer,
and direct that this grant be laid
out in communication with the Collr,
and that it be distributed to the
various roads with the approval
of the Collector and making certain
remarks as to the Chief Engineer's
way of doing business.

No 664 by

28 March 1859