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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	577	Press Mjs.
123-124 Dated	19-3-1860.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 123. Read the following letter from R. WATSON, Esq., Government Contractor for Land Carriage from Godavery to Kamptee, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chandah, Nagpore Province, 8th February 1860 :—

My absence at Buddrachellum and superintendence of transit of Stores prevented receipt till my return on 5th instant of the Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 2898 of 14th December, (ultimo), conveying the decision of Government in reply to my letter of 7th October, (ultimo), tendering for the carriage of Stores from Buddrachellum to Secunderabad.

2. Being without any information from the Commissary General, I am ignorant if he has as yet acted on the Orders of Government to invite tenders by public notice.

3. I believe, I fully explained to you when in Madras, that my chief object in seeking Government support by receiving contracts for carriage of Stores was on account of the great aid it was to me in affording me a certain and cheap return carriage for my produce to a certain navigable point on the river, and I think I am correct in saying that His Excellency the Governor in Council was mainly influenced in his resolution to accept my tender, as an encouragement for me to proceed with my endeavours on the Godavery, and as a recognition of my past labors in the attempt to divert the trade of Berar coastwards via the Godavery route.

4. You are doubtless aware that I have been for upwards of three years actively engaged on the Godavery, and am the first who brought Berar produce to the East Coast via the Godavery. You are perhaps also aware that my endeavours, after entailing a very heavy outlay, did not give that satisfaction which all connected with the scheme had anticipated, resulting thereby in its abandonment by the Calcutta firm with whom I was connected; and had I at the same time abandoned the undertaking, the Godavery viewed commercially, would have been a dead letter for many years, as the mercantile community, judging from the failure of one of their body, would have been loath to risk capital on it. It was at this period that I proposed to Captain F. H. Rundall, District Engineer, Godavery Division, and afterwards to you in my letter of 13th May 1859, that Government should adopt the Godavery river for the carriage of their Stores; and in which I pointed out the several advantages resulting to Government from the adoption of my proposal.

5. I would beg now most respectfully to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the grounds on which I hope for preference in the disposal of any Contracts relating the Godavery :—

1stly. As a reward for the capital and labor I have expended in the endeavours to open a traffic via the Godavery route, and being the only European who has brought British capital and enterprise to bear on the undertaking.

2ndly. That these Contracts will give me a certain and cheap carriage from the interior to a navigable point on the river for the extensive products of Berar and Hyderabad, and thereby establish a valuable traffic on the river which must form the nucleus of a most expensive trade hereafter; and that such trade is likely to exist only where the Contract is held by those interested in the export of the products of that country, inasmuch as, if this Contract is held by Natives indifferent to trade, and who rely for their remuneration on the amount procurable from the carriage alone, the return rates for carts conveying produce will be so high as to preclude the trade that would otherwise flow river-ward. In proof of this, I may inform you, that two years ago, when these Stores were conveyed by the Rájá Náganna from Masulipatam to Nagpore, I made several endeavours to use his return carts for conveyance of cotton from Berar to Buddrachellum, but the price asked was so exorbitant, I could not avail myself of it. There were then hundreds of carts going empty to Buddrachellum, which, had they been in the hands of Europeans would have been carrying valuable produce, and establishing a wholesome trade to the Godavery.

3rdly. That the large amount of produce I can bring to the river by the use of these carts will be all available to Government as freight for their return boats and steamers, and that by

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of March 1860.

this means, a large income will be derived by the river transit, sufficient to cover the expenses of the steamers and boats backwards, thus leaving a large sum available for minor river improvements.

4thly. I have already sent to England regarding a Boydell's Traction Engine and opened communication with the Commissioner of this Province, relative to constructing good roads suitable for Traction Engines. Should the Contract remain in my hands, the result will be that in a few years the cost of land carriage will be greatly reduced. The Contract now held by me was held by Rájá Náganna for years, without his making any effort to introduce improvements and cheapen the work.

6. In conclusion, I have the honor to inform you, that I have this day addressed a letter to the Commissary General tendering for the carriage from Buddrachellum to Secunderabad for three years; at 5 Annas per ton per mile for the first year, and 4 Annas for the next two years. I am compelled to make the rate higher for the first year as from Buddrachellum to Cummumet and Madaveram there is no good cart road.

Awaiting the favor of your reply.

No. 124.

ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1860, No. 577.

The Contract for conveying Stores from Buddrachellum to Secunderabad, for one year, having been put up to public competition, in pursuance of a Resolution of Government which was communicated to Mr. Watson in an Order of the 14th December 1859, No. 2898, was assigned to Rájá Náganna Bahádúr; the Government are therefore unable at present to attend to the offer contained in this letter.

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

From Mr. R. Watson

700: Contractor for land Carriage from Godavari to Kamptee

To J. D. Bourdillon Esq.

Secretary to Government.

Fort Saint George.

Chandah, Nagpore Province

8th February 1860.

Sir,

My absence at Buddrachellum and superintendence of transit of stores prevented receipt till my return on 5th inst. of the Proceedings of Madras Government No. 2898 of 14th Decr. in relation to the decision of Government in reply to my letter of 7th October with tendering for the carriage of stores from Buddrachellum to Secunderabad.

2. Being without any information from the Commissary General I am ignorant if he has as yet acted on the orders of Government to invite tenders by public notice.

3. I have I fully explained to you when in Calcutta that my chief object in seeking Government support by receiving contracts for carriage of stores was on account of the great aid it was to me in affording me a certain and cheap store carriages for my produce to a certain navigable point on the river, and I think I am correct in saying that H. E. the Commissary General was mainly influenced in his resolution to accept my tender, as an encouragement for me to proceed with my endeavours on the Godavari & as a recognition of my past labors in the attempt to divert the trade of Beac-

commerce via the Godavari route.

4. You are doubtless aware that I have been for upwards of 3 years actively engaged on the Godavari, and am the first who brought Berar produce to the East coast via the Godavari. You are perhaps also aware that my endeavours, after entailing a very heavy outlay, did not give that satisfaction which all connected with the scheme had anticipated, resulting thereby in its abandonment by the Calcutta Firm with whom I was connected; and had I at the same time abandoned the undertaking the Godavari river commercially would have been a dead letter for many years, as the mercantile community judging from the failure of one enterprise, would have been loath to risk capital on it. It was at this period that I proposed to Captain J. H. Windsor (District Engineer Hyderabad Division) and afterwards to you in my letter of 13th May 1854, that Government should adopt the Godavari river for the carriage of their stores, & in which I pointed out the several advantages resulting to Government from the adoption of my proposal.

5. I would beg to most respectfully to submit for the consideration of H. E. the Governor in Council the grounds on which I hope for preference in the disposal of any contracts relating to the Godavari:

1st as a route for the Capital and

Calcutta, I have expended in the endeavours to open a traffic via the Godavari route, and being the only European who has brought British capital & enterprise to bear on the undertaking.

2nd That these contracts will give me a certain & cheap carriage from the interior to a navigable point on the river for the extensive products of Berar and Hyderabad, and thereby establish a valuable traffic on the river which must form the nucleus of a most extensive trade hereafter; and that such trade is likely to exist only where the contract is held by those interested in the export of the products of that country, inasmuch as if this contract is held by natives indifferent to trade, & who rely for their remuneration on the amount procurable from the carriage alone, the whole rates for carts conveying produce will be so high as to frustrate the trade that would otherwise flourish. In proof of this I may inform you that two years ago when these stores were conveyed by the Native Waggoners from Masulipatnam to Hyderabad I made several endeavours to use his native carts for conveyance of cotton from Berar to Madras but the price was so exorbitant I could not avail myself of it. There were then hundreds

of carts going empty to Budachellum which had they been in the hands of Europeans would have been carrying valuable produce, and establishing a wholesome trade to the Coast.

3rd That the large amount of produce being sent to the river by the use of these carts will be all available to Government as freight for their return boats and steamers, and that by this means a large income will be derived by the river board sufficient to cover the expenses of the steamers and boats both ways, thus leaving a large sum available for minor river improvements.

4th I have already sent to England regarding a Portello's Traction Engines & opened communication with the Commissioner of this Province relative to constructing good roads suitable for Indian Carriages. As the contract remains in my hands the result will be that in a few years the cost of land carriage will be greatly reduced. The contract now held by me was held by Raja Sijunna for years without his making any effort to introduce improvements to and shorten the work.

6. In conclusion I have the honor to inform you that I have this day addressed a letter to the Commissioner General looking for the carriage from Budachellum to Beem to be used for 3 years; at 5000 rupees for the first year and 2000 for the next two years. I am compelled to make the rate higher for the first year as from Budachellum to Commune and Madhuvaram there is no good cart road. — Awaiting the favor of your reply
I have the honor to be.

Yours most Obedient Servant.

Robt. Nelson

Enclosed find
a copy of the
contract for the
carriage from
Budachellum to
Beem

Q. M. 22nd Decr 1859 (1864)
 " 31st Aug - " 41-42
 - 31st Decr 60. 1870.

P. M. 1861 (1864)
 Decr 1st 20th March.
 17th 589.

From the Govt. Printing
 Office for General Carriage
 from Solomon's
 Assembly.

From 11th to 12th June 1864
 1865
 (Total 82. 20th 1865.
 Decr 1865. 1866.

Submits for con-
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 for presence in the
 disposal of any con-
 tract relating to the
 property and state
 that he has as a result
 a letter to the Commission
 and tendering for the
 land (arrived from
 the back of the
 document for 3 years.

As 579: 19: 1864
 With our order

22-579.

The contract for con-

= we are from the
 = claims to be made, for one
 year, having been put up to
 public competition, in accordance
 of a resolution of Government
 which was communicated to the
 Station in an order of the 14th Decr

1859, to 23rd 1868, and assigned to the
 Supreme Authority, the Govt. are
 therefore unable to present to the
 to the offer contained in this letter.

22-579: 19: 1864
 19th 81-10/10
 at Station 19th Decr 1864

1862 23 1864.

1864 1864.