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con 20/4/60

G.O. No. <u>761</u>	Press Mis.
<u>13-74</u> Dated <u>16-4</u> 18 <u>60</u>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 73. Read the following letter from Captain F. H. RUNDALL, Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Pater's Garden, 29th March 1860, No. 60 :—

1. I have the honor to forward copies of letters received from the Agent and Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Canal Company, regarding the construction of the Electric Telegraph along their system of works.
Letter from the Agent, No. 20, dated 26th March, with an enclosure.

2. No question can be raised regarding the necessity for the erection of a line of Telegraph, for no where can rapidity of communication be more required than in the management and control of vast bodies of water. The Board have signified their intention of sending out wire and, therefore, the only question at present is whether the work shall be executed in connection with the Government Telegraph Department or by the Company themselves.

3. It would of course be very advantageous to gain the experience of men already accustomed to the work in this country, and in the use of the best instruments, but there seems to be no reason why the Irrigation Company should not act in this matter as the Railway authorities have done, and have their own lines managed by their own Officers.

4. Where desirable, there might be connections made with the Government lines, and doubtless the Government would find it to their advantage to have the opportunity of communicating by a great number of cross lines.

5. As regards the free use of the Government line by the Company and vice versa, it does not appear to me expedient, inasmuch as even service messages are now all prepaid and, therefore, there would be no object gained in allowing a free use, as it would only involve an unnecessary transfer of cash. Whenever either party uses the others lines, it may be ruled that the messages should be paid for at the Government rates.

6. With the approval of Government, therefore, I would suggest that the Chief Engineer and Agent be instructed to make an immediate commencement of the necessary preparation in collecting materials and organizing an Establishment.

From F. AGNEW, Esq., Agent, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Captain F. H. RUNDALL, Consulting Engineer, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, dated 26th March 1860, No. 20.

1. I have the honor to forward a copy of letter addressed to me by Colonel H. C. Cotton, dated 24th March 1860. In this letter Colonel H. C. Cotton urges the necessity of immediate arrangements for the construction of an Electric Telegraph from Kurnool to Cuddapah and Nellore.

2. In anticipation of the commencement of the great cutting at Mettacondal, this work is imperatively called for, and I shall feel obliged if you will urge the subject on the attention of Government.

3. In a conversation which I had with Sir William O'Shaughnessy, that Officer strongly advised that this Company should employ his Department in the erection of the Telegraph and the supply of instruments and materials.

4. It is a matter of no moment to the Officers of this Company, whether the Telegraph is erected by the Company or by the Telegraph Department, and I beg to leave the matter entirely in the hands of Government.

5. If the latter course be adopted, Colonel Cotton will, with the permission of Government, put himself in communication with the Telegraph Department, and lay before Government at an early date, the details of the undertaking. Should it be decided that the Officers of the Company should carry out the work, Colonel H. C. Cotton is in a position immediately to make the necessary preparations.

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

From H. C. COTTON, Esq., Chief Engineer, to F. AGNEW, Esq., Agent, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, dated 24th March 1860.

I did not reply to your communication of the 1st February on the subject of the Electric Telegraph for our works, as I was preparing to visit Madras, and wished for a conversation with you on the subject. I am fully of your opinion that our instruments and mode of communication should be one with those of the Government, and establishing our lines in concert with Sir W. O'Shaughnessy, would be favorable to us, inasmuch as we should be able at once to obtain taught men, and approved instruments. I consider Telegraphic communication during our extensive operations of very great pecuniary importance and in the working afterwards of our great reservoirs, and other works in connection with navigation, irrigation, and drainage, of still higher importance. The supply of water to tracts far removed from their sources of supply, the closing of those sources and opening escape sluices in times of flood, and indeed the whole regulation of the works essentially need Electric communication to give them full effect, and to avert extensive mischief and loss. You mention that the Supreme Government disputed the necessity of Electric communication in Irrigation and Canal Works. If Railways, if Mercantile affairs, if Government in its ordinary operations, if any thing can benefit by Electric wires, much more the working of a great system of water works. Surely no depth of argument is necessary to show, that to avert the evils of devastating floods from which this country so greatly suffers through the want of a system of control over its streams, if possible, is a necessity; and if by Electric command from distant parts the main sources can be shut, and by no other means, then is this Telegraph necessary for the public safety and benefit; and when the Company has incurred a great expenditure on works for the storage and control of water, it must be acknowledged essential that they shall use the most prompt and effectual means which science can give them, to regulate their water, and reserve it with the most rigid economy, and herein is the use of the Telegraph, for the Company's proper benefit, also essential. I am not acquainted with the laws which empower the Supreme Government to interfere with the establishment of our lines, but it is palpable to my mind, that to exercise that power in prohibiting them would be a most serious injury both to the Company and the public.

I see no objection to our Telegraph being opened in concert with the Government. It need in no case interfere with the present Government lines, and in times of political and other great national emergencies, it ought to be available and would be of essential use. It might or it might not be open to the public while not at work for the Company, that would be a matter for the decision of the paternal and liberal Government of India; but I should propose its being made as generally and extensively useful as would be consistent with its carrying all the messages required for the Company's purposes. On these principles, I would suggest that at Kurnool, Nellore, and Bellary, we should carry our wires into the Government stations and by some established arrangement, transmit our messages to and from Madras by the Government wires and throughout our works upon the Company's lines. We should require stations at all our great works during construction, as it would be no trifling source of economy, to check our daily accounts of expenditure by means of the Telegraph, and in most cases the same would be necessary afterwards for the water control and distribution.

It appears to me but reasonable, that the Company should have free use of the Government lines gratis, and be allowed freely to give to the public the use of their own on the same terms as is established by the Government. Our lines being open for the Government messages in like manner without charge. Our Telegraph would chiefly be of use to the Government in local communication through the several Collectorates, and perhaps in Military correspondence to a small extent, while it would give to the Government lines greatly extended operation and profit and be an important public benefit.

In my requisitions approved by the Madras Government, and transmitted to England, I made no stipulation as to the kind of instrument to be sent out, considering that the Board with their Consulting Engineer, would determine the question, and send out the most approved; but Sir W. O'Shaughnessy's proposition is most satisfactory and I trust will be adopted, in which

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

case it would be desirable at once to communicate with the Board, and prevent them sending out any other description. The wire they will send out will probably be lighter than that used generally in this country, but this I conclude will not be disapproved by Sir W. O'Shaughnessy, our messages will be generally carried through short distances, and the lighter wire for economy's sake will probably be considered more suitable.

No. 74.

ORDER THEREON, 16th April 1860, No. 761.

The Consulting Engineer lays before Government letters from the Agent and the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Company, pressing the great advantage of an Electric Telegraph throughout the line of the Company's operations; and he solicits the sanction of the Government to the immediate commencement of the necessary preparatory arrangements for this object, by the Company's Officers. No Estimate whatever is offered as to the cost.

2. The Government do not dispute the advantages which, it is stated in these papers, would accrue to the Company from the proposed Telegraph. But there is nothing to show that the Directors of the Company have approved of the project or have ever had it before them.

3. The proper course, in the opinion of Government will be for Mr. Agnew to address the Directors on the subject, with a general Estimate of the probable cost; and when the proposal is approved by the Directors, the Government will be fully prepared to sanction the detailed Estimates.

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

N^o 20.

Madras Irrigation & Canal Company
Madras 28th March 1860.

From,

F. Agnew Esquire

Agent Madras Irrigation & Canal Company
To,

Captain F. H. Rundall.

Consulting Engineer Madras I. and C. Co.

Sir,

1 I have the honor to forward a copy of letter addressed to me by Colonel H. C. Cotton dated 24th March 1860. In this letter Colonel H. C. Cotton urges the necessity of immediate arrangements for the construction of an Electric Telegraph from Tumoor to Coorapah & Nellore.

2 In anticipation of the commencement of the great cutting at Mettasandal, this work is imperatively called for, and I shall feel obliged if you will urge the subject on the attention of Government.

3. In a conversation which I had with Sir William O'Shaughnessy, that officer strongly advised that

this Company should employ his department in the erection of the Telegraph and the supply of instruments and materials.

4. It is a matter of no moment to the Officers of this Company, whether the Telegraph is erected by the Company or by the Telegraph Department, and I beg to leave the matter entirely in the hands of Government.

5. If the latter course be adopted Colonel Cotton will with the permission of Government, put himself in communication with the Telegraph Department, and lay before Government at an early date, the details of the undertaking. Should it be decided, that the Officers of the Company should carry out the work, Colonel H. C. Cotton is in a position immediately to make the necessary preparations.

I have the honor to be &c.

Signed / F. Agnew

Agent

(True Copy)

F. W. Russell Captain

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F. Agnew Esquire
Agent Madras Irrigation & Canal Company
Dear Sir,

I did not reply to your communication of the 1st February on the subject of the Electric Telegraph for our works, as I was preparing to visit Madras, and wished for a conversation with you on the subject. I am fully of your opinion that our instruments and mode of communication should be one with those of the Government, and establishing our lines in concert with Sir W. O'Shaughnessy, would be favorable to us, in as much as we should be able at once to obtain taught men, and approved instruments. I consider Telegraphic communication during our extensive operations of very great pecuniary importance and in the working afterwards of our great reservoirs, and other works in connection with navigation, irrigation, and drainage, of still higher importance. The supply of water to

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Company and the public.

I see no objection to our Telegraph
being opened in concert with the
Government. It need in no case interfere
with the present Government lines, and
in times of political and other great
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St.

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case it would be desirable at once to
communicate with the Board, and
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description. The wire they will send
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used generally in this country, but
this I conclude will not be disapproved
by Sir W. O'Shaughnessy, our messages
will be generally carried through short
distances, and the lighter wire for
economy's sake will probably be
considered more suitable.

Madras
24 March 1860

I am &c
Signed H. C. Cotton
Chief Engineer.

(True Copy)
Signed F. Agnew
Agent

(True Copy)
J. H. Murrell Captain
Consulting Engineer for Irrigation
and Canal Company.

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Madras Irrigation & Canal Company
Consulting Engineer's Office
Patel's garden 29 March 1860

No 60

Sir

Captain F. H. Randall
Consulting Engineer for Irrigation
& Canal Company

To

The Secretary to Government
in the Department of P. Works
Fort St. George

Sir

Enclosure 1

Letter from the Agent
20 dated 26 March
with an enclosure

1- I have the honor to forward copies of
letters received from the Agent & Chief Engineer
Irrigation & Canal Company, regarding the construc-
tion of the Electric Telegraph along their system
of works.

2- No question can be raised regarding the
necessity for the erection of a line of Telegraph,
for no where can rapidity of communication
be more required than in the management and
control of vast bodies of water. The Board have
signified their intention of sending out wire &
therefore

Enclosure from

Captain F. H. Randall

Consulting Engineer

for Irrigation & Canal

Company to the

Secretary to Government

dated 29 March 1860

No 60.

MS 802/60

Copy of a letter
from Mr. F. H. Randall
Agent of the Irrigation
Company on the
subject of construct-
ing Electric Telegraph.

therefore the only question at present is whether the work shall be executed in connection with the Government Telegraph Department or by the Company themselves.

3. It would of course be very advantageous to gain the experience of men already accustomed to the work in this country and in the use of the best instruments but there seems to be no reason why the Irrigation Company should not act in this matter as the Railway Authorities have done, and have their own lines managed by their own Officers -

4. - Where desirable there might be connections made with the Government lines, and doubtless the Government would find it to their advantage to have the opportunity of communicating by a great number of cross lines -

5. As regards the free use of the Government line by the Company and vice versa, it does not appear to me expedient inasmuch as even Service messages are now all prepaid and therefore there would

19
would be no object gained in allowing a free use, as it would only involve an unnecessary transfer of cash - whenever either party uses the other's lines, it may be ruled that the messages should be paid for at the Government rates.

6. With the approval of Government therefore I would suggest that the Chief Engineer Agent be instructed to make an immediate commencement of the necessary preparation in collecting materials and organizing an establishment.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Serv^t

J. W. Russell Capt^y

Consulting Engineer for
Irrigation & Canal Co^s

W. 761.

P. 10. 2

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 16th April 1860.

Read the following
letter from the Consulting
Engg. for Irrigation Canal
Company.

Forwards copies of
letters from the agent and Chief
Engg. J. V. C. and requests in
instructions on the subject of
speedy construction of Electric
Telegraph from Mysore
to Chitradurga & Bellary.
(See later 29 Mar 1860)

The Consulting
Engg. lays before Govt
letters from the Agent &
the Chief Engineer of the
Irrigation Company,
pressing the great advantage
of an Electric Telegraph
throughout the line of the
Company's operations;
and he solicits the sanction
of the Government to the
immediate

W. 761.

W. 761.

W. 761.

W. 761. 1860. 16th April
No. of Govt. 29th March 1860.

From
Capt. H. H. D. D. D.
Consulting Engineer for
Irrigation Canal Co.

To
The Secretary to Government
in the Govt. of Madras

And Mr. J. V. C.
Dated 29th March 1860
No. 29th March 1860
Enclosure 1

Forwards copies of
letters from the Agent &
Chief Engineer of the
Irrigation Canal Co.
pressing the great advantage
of an Electric Telegraph
throughout the line of the
Company's operations;
and he solicits the sanction
of the Government to the
immediate

W. 761. 1860. 16th April

No. 29

immediate commencement
of the necessary preparatory
arrangements for this
object, by the Company's
officers. To estimate
whatever is offered as to
the cost.

2 The Government
do not dispute the ad-
vantages which, it is
stated, in these papers,
would accrue to the Com-
pany from the proposed
telegraph. But there is
nothing to shew that the
Directors of the Company
have approved of the pro-
ject or have ever had it
before them.

The proper course, in the
opinion of Govt will
be for Mr. Agnew to
address the Directors
on

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on the subject, with a
general estimate of the
probable cost; and
when the proposal is
approved by the Direc-
tors, the Government
will be fully prepared
to sanction the detailed
estimates.

PAH

1 copy
Com. Eng. In. Campy. Disp. 17

Julius Winters 1860-1861
Dec: of Govt 25-26 April

Apr 7 61.
Dec: of the War Department
27 16-20 April 1861.

Frank C. Randall 1870
Aug 1870 (Rev. 114-115)

1870-1871
From the Department of the Interior
in relation to the 31st March 1871
Virginia and Texas on the 1st March 1871
On the subject of
constructing Electric
Telegraph from Austin
to Bridgeport and
Mexico.

Francis C. Randall

Copy to the Secretary
of the Interior
1870-1871
Apr 1874