M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-8-37.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1474	Press / Mis.
93-94	
Dated 6-8-	18 94.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 6th August 1861.

No. 93. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, Deputy Chief Engineer, in charge of Central Office of Public Works, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 16th July 1861, No. 2,766.

SIR,

No. 1,298, 13th July 1861.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge Proceedings of Madras Government marginally noted.

1 Letter from the Session Judge at Chicacole, No. 100, dated 22nd April 1861, with two enclosures.
1 Do. do., No. 128, dated 23rd May 1861.
1 Copy of letter to the Civil and Session Judge, No. 202, dated 6th May 1861.
1 Do. to do., No. 1,554, dated 14th June 1861.

2. I think that the Session Judge, Mr. Knox, must surely have mislaid the letters received from this Office, and retained but a very imperfect remembrance of their purport. I notice copies of them do not, as is usual, form an accompaniment to his letters. I have the honor now to forward them, and Government will observe that in my letter* so strangely misinterpreted by Mr. Knox, I distinctly repeated Colonel Horsley's decision, that if it was found expedient to hand over a portion of the roads to Mr. Knox, materials would of course be supplied by the District Engineer, on Mr. Knox's requisition. Colonel Horsley had further added the proviso in his letter,† that the concurrence of the District Engineer for the necessity of supplying such material would be requisite.

* No. 1,554, dated 14th June 1861.

† No. 202, dated 6th May 1861.

3. It seems to me that if, as Mr. Knox states, his sole object is the employment of the prisoners, his wishes are hereby fully met. It appears, however, that Mr. Knox desires the control and expenditure of a portion of the maintenance allowance, and further now declares that he could not, with the prisoners' aid, maintain the road in its present order, even with the absolute control of a portion of the maintenance allowance. I therefore see nothing to be gained by such a transfer; but on the contrary, the result is only likely to be a confusion of accounts and divided responsibility, naturally distasteful to the District Engineer.

4. In reply to paragraph 12, in which Mr. Knox somewhat rashly (it seems to me) asserts that there has been an undue and extravagant expenditure on the roads in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Chicacole, I would beg to state (pending a reference which has been made to the District Engineer on the subject) that the maintenance allowance is a discretionary fund in the hands of the District Engineer, who may lay it out to meet the traffic demands on any portion of the line on which he considers it more immediately required, provided the whole line is maintained in fair order, and it stands to reason, that there will be a greater thoroughfare in the immediate neighbourhood of a large town, than generally throughout the line. Mr. Knox also makes his remarks at a season when the largest expenditure occurs preparatory to the setting in of the monsoon.

5. Had Mr. Knox been satisfied simply to obtain employment for his prisoners on the roads in the vicinity of the jail, I am perfectly certain no objection would have been raised by the District Engineer, and Government need not have been troubled in the matter; but Mr. Knox's object evidently is to obtain the absolute control of the repairs of the roads in question and the maintenance allowance for them.

6. I do not see that Government would be any gainers by such an arrangement.

No. 94. ORDER THEREON, 6th August 1861, No. 1,474.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Judicial Department, with reference to the Order in that Department, dated 5th July 1861.

2. The proposal made by the Session Judge of Chicacole has little to recommend it so far as the Public Works Department is concerned; but it can be allowed if, as is stated, work is required for the convicts and cannot otherwise be advantageously provided. On this point, the opinion of the Inspector General of Jails appears desirable.

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

Central Office of Public Works
Chepauk 16th July 1861. 3.

№ 2766

From,

Lieutenant Colonel W. J. Birdwood
Deputy Chief Engineer
in charge of the Central Office of P.W.

To,

J. D. Sim Esquire
Secretary to Government P.W.D.
Fort Saint George.

"Roads & Communications"

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
№ 1298, 13th July 1861. Proceedings of Madras Government, marginally noted.

2. I think that the Sessions Judge, Mr Knox, must surely have mislaid the letters, received from this Office, and retained but a very imperfect remembrance of their purport. I notice copies of them do not, as is usual, form an accompaniment to his letters. I have the honor now to forward them, and Government will observe, that in my letter* so strangely misinterpreted by Mr Knox, I distinctly repeated Colonel Harsley's decision that if it was found expedient to hand

Enclosure 6
1 Letter from the Sessions Judge at Chicacole №3100 dated 22d April/61. with 3 Enclosures.
1 D° — D° № 428 dated 23d May 1861 from the Civil & Sessions Judge of Ganjam to the Chief Secretary to Government
1 D° to D° № 202 dated 6th May/61
1 D° to D° № 1554 dated 14th June/61

* № 1554 dated 14th June/61

hand over a portion of the Roads, to Mr. Knox, materials would of course be supplied by the District Engineer, on Mr. Knox's requisition. Colonel Horsley had further added, the proviso, in his letter,* that the concurrence of the District Engineer, for the necessity of supplying such material, would be requisite.

*No 252 dated 6th May 1861

3. It seems to me that if as Mr. Knox states, his sole object is the employment of the Prisoners, his wishes are hereby fully met. It appears however, that Mr. Knox desires the control and expenditure of a portion of the maintenance allowance and further now declares that he could not with the Prisoners did maintain the road in its present order, even with the absolute control of a portion of the maintenance allowance. I therefore see nothing to be gained by such a transfer, but on the contrary, the result is only likely to be a confusion of accounts, and divided responsibility, naturally distasteful to the District Engineer.

4. In reply to Para 12. in which Mr. Knox somewhat rashly (it seems to me) asserts that there has been an undue and extravagant

extravagant expenditure on the roads in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Chicacole, I would beg to state, (pending a reference which has been made to the District Engineer on the subject) that the maintenance allowance is a discretionary fund in the hands of the District Engineer who may lay it out to meet the traffic demands, on any portion of the Line, on which he considers it more immediately required, provided the whole Line is maintained in fair order, and it stands to reason, that there will be a greater thoroughfare, in the immediate neighbourhood of a large Town, than generally throughout the Line. Mr. Knox also makes his remarks, at a season, when the largest expenditure occurs, preparatory to the setting in of the monsoon.

5. Had Mr. Knox been satisfied, simply to obtain employment for his Prisoners, on the roads in the vicinity of the Jail. I am perfectly certain, no objection would have been raised by the District Engineer, and Government need not have been troubled in the matter, but Mr. Knox's object evidently

evidently is to obtain, the absolute control of the repairs of the Roads in question, and the maintenance allowance for them.

6. I do not see that Govern.=ment would be any gainers by such an arrangement.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant

Central Office of P.W.
Chepauk
16th July 1861

W. Sandwood Lieutt Colo
Deputy Chief Engineer
in charge of the Central Office of P.W.

To,
J. D. Sim. Esqre
Secretary to Government F. P. W. D.
Fort Saint George.

No 13 dated July 1861 Rec'd 18 1 2 3
182 3

P. W. (3) 1861 Dep't 3a
Pro: of Gov't for Aug't
No 1632.

From,
Lieut't Col'n W. J. Birdwood
Deputy Chief Engineer
in charge of the Central Office P. W.

To
J. D. Sim Esq're
Secretary to Gov't P. W. D.
Fort St George.

Dated 16 1/2 July 1861.
Rec'd 17th "
No 2766

Encl's No 6
From do do 27 Aug't 1861
No 1949 in P.C.

Offering observations with reference to the Proceedings of Madras Gov't regarding certain roads being kept in good order in the District of Ganjam by the Sessions Judge at Chicacole.

With an order

No 1474-6: Aug't.

No 1474

Ordered to be communicated to the Judicial Department with reference to the Order in that Dep't dated 5 July 1861

2 The proposal made by the Sessions Judge of Chicacole has a title to recommend it, so far as the P.W. Dep't is concerned; but it can be allowed if, as is stated, work is required for the convicts and cannot otherwise be advantageously provided. On this point the opinion of the Insp'r General of Jails appears desirable.

4 Copies
Jud'l Dep't with B/6 Orig'l Encl's. Dep't
13 Chief Eng'rs "

J. D. S

Forwarded 27 Aug't 1861

Recd 30 July Rd 2 Aug't