125-2

M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 10

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1252	Press / Mis.
71-72	
Dated 4-6-	1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Public.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. OUCHTERLONY, Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, in charge of Southern Circle, to Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 21st May 1862, No. 816:—

SIR,

1 Letter from the Acting District Engineer, No 51, dated 7th May 1862.

* Extract Minutes Consultation, No 305, under date 5th July 1855.

1. In 1855* Government sanctioned amongst other estimates for the Madura District, in Budget 1856-57, one, amounting to Rupees 15,425 for a six-arch bridge over the Shunmooganuddee on Trunk Road No. II near Pulney; and the work was actually commenced by the laying of the foundations of one abutment and of one pier, and by the raising of one approach; a sum of Rupees 1,027-0-8 having been expended.

2. The work was then stopped under the restrictive order.

3. The District Engineer now recommends that it be pursued, pointing out that owing to the completion of the Ambravutty bridge, which is now almost achieved, he will have centrings scaffolding and other useful plant available, together with a body of new experienced bricklayers and workmen accustomed to bridge building, who could all be transferred at once most advantageously and economically to the new work: a work, which is most urgently needed on account of the impediment which its absence causes to a fast increasing traffic towards the Railway.

4. In Mr. Harrington's recommendations I cordially concur; for independent of the disadvantage of leaving a road upon which much money has been expended obstructed by a rapid and often impassable river, it should be borne in mind that the cost of labor in the southern (as in all) Districts is so steadily increasing that the difference, or excess in estimates for deferred works like this bridge, will be found to represent a loss to the State four-fold the interest at which the amount of original estimated cost could have been borrowed.

5. Indeed so alarmingly is this principle being developed all over the Presidency, and so very little probability is there of the tendency to increase being arrested while such a demand is being created for labor by the many new associated enterprizes which are coming into operation, that it becomes a matter worthy of the serious consideration of Government, leading, as it I think will, to the conclusion that expenditure on sanctioned and commenced works, and indeed on all other approved undertakings, should be pushed in the current and succeeding years† to the utmost limit of the supervising power of the Executive Department by means of borrowed capital.

† 1862-63 & 1863-64.

6. Many Engineers will doubtless protest against increased outlay, on the ground of the insufficiency of Subordinate experienced Executives; but I feel sure that if Government would consent to untrammel the District Officers to a certain extent even if only during the next two years by abolishing the greater number of the, in my humble opinion, useless and vexatious "Returns," which they are compelled at present, month after month, to submit, nine-tenths of our able Executive Officers would withdraw their protest.

7. I would take this opportunity to suggest to Government the advisability of obtaining a statement showing the ratio and amount of increase which has taken place in building rates in all the more important Districts of this Presidency during the last ten years. It would enable Government to perceive at one view where expenditure should, upon the principle I have adverted to, be accelerated to the utmost; and where delay in carrying out works to completion would be comparatively speaking of less moment. Such a statement could be compiled I think in the Central Office without troubling the District Engineers for Returns of data past and present.

8. I expect that the estimate for the Shunmooganuddee bridge will not, at existing rates, amount to less than Rupees 20,000, but I hope Government will be pleased to sanction the work being resumed at once in anticipation of the detailed estimate which the District Engineer will be instructed to compile without delay.

ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1862, No. 1,252.

The Government grant permission for the bridge across the Shunmooganuddee on Trunk Road No. 2 near Pulney, in the Madura District, being proceeded with as soon as the necessary superintendence and labor is available. The District Engineer will be instructed to submit without delay a revised estimate for the work in the form of the usual comparative statement. He will be careful also to revise the plan sanctioned in 1855 if the further experience of the river gained since then, should show such to be necessary. Funds for the work will be provided from the Reserve Fund of the current year when it is known what amount will be required for expenditure in the year. In the meantime funds can be obtained from the general allotment of the District for the current year.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer.
„ Accountant General.
„ Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Dy Chief Engr's Office S.C.
Chepauk 21 May 1862

No. 816

From Lieutenant Colonel J Ouchterlony
As Deputy Chief Engr in Ch: S.C.

To Lieutenant Colonel W H Horsley
Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Public

Sir

In 1855* Government sanctioned amongst other Estimates for the Madura District, in Budget 56/57, one, amounting to — Rs 15,425 for a 6 Arch Bridge over the Shunmooganuddee on Trunk Road No II near Pulney; and the work was actually commenced by the laying of the foundations of one abutment and of one Pier, and by the raising of one approach; a sum of Rupees 1,027-0-8 having been expended.

2. The work was then stopped under the restrictive order.

3 The District Engineer now recommends that

*Esc: Minutes Cons. No 305 under date 5th July 1855.

Enclosure 1 Letter from the Acting District Engineer No 51 dated 7th May 1862

that if he pursued, pointing out that owing to the completion of the Ambraiuttu Bridge, which is now almost achieved, he will have centrings, scaffolding and other useful plant available, together with a body of now experienced brick layers and workmen accustomed to bridge building, who could all be transferred at once most advantageously and economically to the new work: a work which is most urgently needed on account of the impediment which its absence causes to a fast increasing traffic towards the Railway.

4 In Mr. Carrington's recommendation I cordially concur; for independent of the disadvantage of leaving a road upon which much money has been expended obstructed by a rapid and often impassable river, it should be borne in mind that the cost of labor in the Southern (as in all) Districts is so steadily increasing that the difference, or excess in Estimates for deferred works like this Bridge, will be found to represent a loss to the State fourfold the interest at which the amount of original estimated cost could have been borrowed.

5 Indeed so alarmingly is this principle being developed all over the Presidency, and so very little probability is there of the tendency to increase being arrested while such a demand is being created for labor by the many new associated enterprizes which are coming into operation, that it becomes a matter worthy of the serious consideration of Government, leading as it, I think will, to the conclusion that expenditure on sanctioned and commenced works, and indeed on all other approved undertakings, should be pushed on the

current

current and ensuing years to the utmost
limit of the supervising power of the Executive
Department by means of borrowed capital.

6 Many Engineers will doubtless
protest against increased outlay on the ground
of the insufficiency of subordinate experienced
Executives; but I feel sure that if Govern-
ment would consent to untrammel the
District Officers to a certain extent even
if only during the next two years by
abolishing the greater number of the - in
my humble opinion - useless and vexatious
"returns" which they are compelled at
present, month after month, to submit,
nine tenths of our able Executive Officers
would withdraw their protest.

I would take this opportunity
to suggest to Government the advisability
of obtaining a statement shewing the
ratio and amount of increase which has
taken

in building rates
taken place in all the more important
Districts of this Presidency during the
last ten years. It would enable
Government to perceive at one view where
expenditure should, upon the principles
I have adverted to, be accelerated to the
utmost; and where delay in carrying
out works to completion would be
comparatively speaking of less moment.
Such a statement could be compiled
I think, in the Central Office without
troubling the District Engineers for returns
of data past and present.

8. I expect that the Estimate
for the Shunmooganuddee Bridge
will not, at existing rates, amount to less
than — Rupees 20000, but I hope
Government will be pleased to sanction
the works being resumed at once in
anticipation

anticipation of the detailed estimate which
the District Engineer will be instructed
to compile without delay—

Dy Chief Engrs Office &c
Chepauk 21 May 1862

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your Most Obt Servant
Alexander Lieut Colonel
Acting Deputy Chief Engineer in charge &c

Lieutenant Colonel W H Horsley
Secretary to Government &c

July 1855 No. 6-7.

From Dy Chief Engr S.C.
D 30th January /63 C.
278 in Pro

Further C No. 4835/63

No. 71. 72

C 26th May R 28th

1862 (3) Lee A.W. (P.W.)
(Pro. M Govt. for June)
No. 1548.
7 From
The Acting Dy Ch. Engr in Ch.
A.S.C.

To The Secy: to Govt.
P.W.D.

Dated 24
Rec. 22nd May 1862

Encl. Rec. No. 1252-4 June
No. 816

Solicits permission to proceed with the Shunmooganuddee bridge on Trunk Road No. II in the District of Madura; and states that a revised Estimate will be submitted for the work

With an order

No. 1252.

The Govt. grant permission for the Bridge across the Shunmooganuddee on Trunk Road No. 2 near Pulney in the Madura District being proceeded with as soon as the necessary superintendence and labor is available. The District Engineer will be instructed to submit without delay a revised Estimate for the work in the form of the usual comparative Statement. He will be careful also to revise the Plan sanctioned in 1855 if the further experience of the river gained since then should shew such to be necessary. Funds for the work will be provided from the Reserve Fund of the current year when it is known what amount will be required for expenditure in the year. In the mean time funds can be obtained from the general allotment of the District for the current year.

7 Copies

E. W. Horsley.

To
The Chief Engr. Dispt. 6
3 " Accountant Genl.
7 " Dy Chief Engr. S. Circle with 1 Encl.

Chepauk
4th June 1862

No. 87