M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 10

(2) Date of repair 21.12.43

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3006 Press / Mis.
296-97
Dated 15 12 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

21-12-43

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 15th December 1862.

No. 296. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel J. OUCHTERLONY, R. E., Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 22nd November 1862, No. 311.

SIR,

2 Letters from District Engineer, Nos. 352 and 361, dated 15th and 19th November 1862, with 2 Encs.

1 Telegraphic Message, dated 15th November 1862.
1 Abstract Estimate.

1. With reference to my letter No. 276, dated 14th instant, I have the honor to submit an Estimate for Rupees 1,300 for spreading gravel on the road between Caroor and Konghiem, the amount to be provided out of the General Funds of the Coimbatore District.

2. The Estimate of the Range Officer Mr. Lowry amounts to Rupees 2,000, but as it is based upon data which appear to me quite inadmissible, comprising a charge of Rupees 1,000 for "watering," when by the admission of the District Engineer "rain commonly falls during the month of November," I cannot conscientiously support it. It is true that Colonel Faber (who appears to meet my efforts to prevent extravagance in rather a captious spirit) produces a table of data which reduce somewhat the charge for watering, but as this Officer supported Mr. Lowry's Estimate with some warmth as will be seen by Telegram, dated 15th November 1862, the discrepancy between the two abstracts of data rather confirm than otherwise my objections to the item of charge referred to.

3. I would also observe that on roads travelled by slow traffic "tamping," or beating down gravel, is, at present, an unusual charge; and the operation is not in my opinion necessary.

4. I should greatly regret to be led into fault-finding unnecessarily, but I confess to a conviction that there is a wide spread tendency in the Department to extravagance in Estimates, due in most cases to a dread of insufficiency and of consequent displeasure of Government when solicited to sanction excesses over their amounts. And it is a tendency which cannot in my judgment be too rigorously checked. Of the two evils the last is unquestionably the least, because when a Supplemental Estimate is brought forward, or when an excess appears in a bill for an executed work, the most rigid enquiry into all particulars takes place; and the Government have abundant security against waste of the public funds; whereas when original Estimates are over rated upon the principle I have indicated, and when the efforts of the intermediate authority to reduce and economize them are not responded to, the interests of Government are exposed to serious compromise.

No. 297. ORDER THEREON, 15th December 1862, No. 3,006.

1. On the recommendation of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, the Government sanction the Estimate of Rupees 1,300 received with the foregoing letter for repairs to the road from Caroor to Konghiem from the general funds of the Coimbatore District. The District Engineer should be duly apprized of the extent of work which it is contemplated should be carried out on the reduced amount of Rupees 1,300.

2. Colonel Faber should be directed to shorten his letters and to confine his communications to what is absolutely necessary for explanation.

(Signed.) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

PUBLIC (ROADS)

ABSTRACT of Estimate No. of 186 .

ROAD No.

DISTRICT Coimbatore

WORK. Repairing the 1st Class road No 1 from Melapalliem to Carroor via Dundigul - i.e. from Kaythum to Carroor.

Quantities.	Description of Work.	Rate. Rs.	A.	P.	Amount. Rupees.	Amount of each part. Rupees.
7698	Sq.yds (of 10ft.×10ft.) Spreading Jelly including watering & tamping ——— @ Sq.yd	"	4	"	1925	—
	Sundries & Contingencies	"	"	"	75	—
					Total Rupees	2000

S. Circle Office
22 November 1862

Inspected by Lieut. Col. [illegible]
Dy. Chief Engineer S. C.

Quantities.	Description of Work.	Rate.			Amount.	Amount of each part.
		Rs.	A.	P.	Rupees.	Rupees.

Southern Circle Office.
Madras, 22nd Nov. 1862

No 311

From

Lieut. Col. J. Puchlerlony R.E.
Deputy Chief Engineer Sn C.

To

Colonel H. J. Birdwood R.E.
Secretary to Government Pwd.

Public.

Sir,

With reference to my letter No 276 of 14th inst
I have the honor to submit an Estimate for
spreading gravel on the road between Cavoor &
Karyhieum, the amount to be provided out of the
General Funds of the Coimbatore District.

2. The Estimate of the Range Officer Mr Lavoy
amounts to Rs 2000 but as it is based upon data
which appear to me quite inadmissible, comprising
a charge of Rs 1000 for "watering" when by the admission
of the District Engineer rain commonly falls during
the months of November I cannot conscientiously
support it. It is true that Colonel Faber (who
appears to meet my efforts to prevent extravagance
in rather a captious spirit) produces a table of
data which reduce somewhat the charge for watering
but as the Officer supported Mr Lavoy's Estimate -
with some warmth as will be seen by Telegram dated
15 Nov/62 - the discrepancy between the two abstract
of data rather confirms than otherwise my objections
to the item of charge referred to.

3.

Public Works Office
The Chief Engineer
Southern Circle

To

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Dated 14 Nov 1862
Received 17 Nov 1862

No 236

Submitted Estimate
for Spreading Gravel
Road between Cavoor
& Karyhieum

Forwarding the Estimate noted in the Margin for the Spreading of Gravel on the Road between Cavoor & Karyhieum in the Coimbatore District.

Forwarding etc. for the Sanction of Government.

Public

Dated 22 Nov 1862

Received 24 Nov 1862

No 2362

3. I would also observe that on roads travelled by slow traffic "tamping", or beating down gravel, is, at present, an unusual charge; the operation is not in my opinion necessary.

4. I should greatly regret to be led into fault finding unnecessarily, but I confess to a conviction that there is a wide spread tendency in the Dept. to extravagance in Estimates, due in most cases to a dread of insufficiency & consequent displeasure of Govt. when solicited to sanction excesses over their amounts. And it is a tendency which cannot in my judgment be too rigorously checked. Of the two evils the last is unquestionably the least, because when a supplemental Estimate is brought forward, or when an excess appears in a bill for an executed work, the most rigid enquiry into all particulars takes place; the Govt. have abundant security against waste of the Public funds; whereas when original Estimates are over rated upon the principle I have indicated, & when the efforts of the intermediate authority to reduce & economize them are not responded to, the interests of Govt. are exposed to serious compromise.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient humble Servant
Thos. Courtenay Lt Col R.E.
Depy. Ch. Engr. & C

To
Colonel H. L. Birdwood R.E.
Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

Proc. 8th July 1862 et
125-126.

P. W. 1862 Depte
Dg: of Govt for Desp
Nº 3553
from
Lt Col. A. Anderson Rs
Dy Ch. Engr Sth.
to
Col. H. L. Birdwood R.E.
Secy to Govt P.W.D.

Dated 22
Rec'd 25 Nov 1862.

Cm 6. Nº 311
Returned

Submits for sanction, an Estimate of Rs 1300 for spreading gravel on the road between Coimbatore & Kunghem, in the District of Coimbatore; and remarks on the tendency in the Department to extravagance in Estimates.

Nº 3006-15 Decr

Auth. Order

2. Col. Baker should be directed to submit his letter and Estimate for separate consideration & orders

13 Copies

Cl. 3006.

Re the recommendation of the Dy Chief Engineer Sth Circle the Govt sanction the Estimate of Rs 1300 received with the foregoing letter for repairs to the road from Karoor to Kunghiem from the general funds of the Coimbatore District - The Chief Engineer should be duly apprised of the extent of work to which it is contemplated should be carried out on the reduced amount of Rs 1300

To the Dy Ch Engr Sth. with 5 Encls. Disp. 16th

Accd Genl

Chepauk
15th Decr 62

Nº 296-297.

Cl. 4th Decr 1862. Rejd