(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. 3023 Press ~~Mis.~~

330-31

Dated 17 12 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, *17th December* 1862.

No. 330. 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, 29th November 1862, No. 321 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to correspondence noted in the margin* I have the honor to submit for the information of Government a letter from the District Engineer of Coimbatore, No. 365, dated 21st November 1862, upon the subject of the repairs to be executed to the Railway feeding road from Konghiem to the Tirpoor Station, by which it will be seen that Colonel Faber adheres to the prodigious amount at which the Range Officer Captain Burn has estimated the work, viz., Rupees 57,600, for only 17⅝ miles, and that he moreover adopts and supports the, to specification of Mr. Fraser the late District Engineer. my apprehension, most extravagant

2. That the plan upon which this gentleman proposes to form the road in question is the very best, and that its preparation shows a knowledge of the proper principles of road making no Engineer will contest : but the mistake committed appears to me to be that he has designed for an Indian 2nd class line traversed by wheels on each of which there never by any accident rests a greater weight than 500 lbs, travelling at the slowest rate of speed, what would be excellent and suitable for Telford's Holyhead road carrying weights of many tons per wheel at slow speed, and well laden stage coaches and waggons travelling at high speed. We cannot aim at such excellence in this country, where with restricted means, it is better to construct several mediocre roads with such funds as can be afforded, than to form only one or two superlatively good ones.

3. I submit Colonel Faber's estimate however for the pleasure of Government, but I cannot support it by countersigning it because I consider its amount extravagant, and the work it provides for unnecessary ; and because moreover I cannot gather from Colonel Faber's letter No. 365, any definite or satisfactory explanation of the reasons he appears to have discovered for adherence to it. Rupees 2,000 a mile appears to me to be ample to allow for putting the road referred to into good order, and I do not recommend the grant of a larger sum. I have suggested† the entry of Rupees 25,000 in the Budget for expenditure on it in 1863-64 ; and Government will perhaps be disposed to raise this sum to Rupees 35,000 being for repair of 17⅝ miles of road at Rupees 2,000 per mile.

No. 331. ORDER THEREON, 17th December 1862, No. 3,023.

1. To enable the Government to decide on the point of difference between the Deputy Chief Engineer and the District Engineer they request to be furnished with a statement of the traffic on the road between Konghiem and Tirpoor.

2. It is observed that in Proceedings dated 28th November 1862, No. 2,851, authority was granted for entering in the Budget of 1863-64 a sum of Rupees 25,000 for the improvement of the above road.

3. Colonel Ouchterlony, who it is understood is now in the Coimbatore District, will be good enough on his return to the Presidency, to inspect the road in company with the District Engineer, and to report in what manner he considers the estimate capable of reduction both with respect to quantities and rates.

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

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* Letter 280, dated 14th November 1862, P. M. G. No. 1,715, dated 17th July 1862.

2 Letters from District Engineer, Nos. 301 and 365, dated 18th October and 21st November 1862, with two enclosures, or
1 General Specification and
1 Letter from Captain Burn, No. 164,
6 Plans.
2 Surveys.
1 Detailed estimate Rupees 57,600.

† No. 280, dated 14th November 1862.

Southern Circle Office D. P. W.
Madras 29th Novr. 1862

No. 321

From
Lt. Colonel J. Ouchterlony R. E.
Dy. Chief Engineer Sn. Circle

To

Colonel W. J. Birdwood R. E.
Secretary to Government P. W. D.

Public
× Letter No. 280
dated 14th Novr. 1862
P. M. G. No. 1715,
dated 17th July 1862

Sir

With reference to correspondence noted in the margin× I have the honor to submit for the information of Govt. a letter from the District Engineer of Coimbatore, No. 365, d/ 21st Nov. 1862, upon the subject of the repairs to be executed to the Railway feeding road from Konghiem to the Tirpoor Station, by which it will be seen that Colonel Faber adheres to the prodigious amount at which the Range Officer Capt. Bum has estimated the work, viz. — Rs. 57,600. for only 17⅝ miles; & that he moreover adopts & supports the — to my apprehension, most extravagant specification of Mr Fraser the late Dt. Engineer.

2. That the plan upon which this gentleman purposes to form the road in question is the very best, & that its preparation shews a knowledge of the proper principles of road making, no Engineer will contest: but the mistake committed appears to me to be that he has designed for an Indian 2d class line traversed by wheels on each of which there never by any accident rests a greater

weight than 500 lbs, travelling at the slowest rate of speed, what would be excellent & suitable for Telford's Holyhead road carrying weights of many tons per wheel,* at slow speed, & well laden stage coaches & waggons travelling at high speed.

We cannot aim at such excellence in this country, where with restricted means, it is better to construct several mediocre roads with such funds as can be afforded, than to form only one or two superlatively good ones.

3. I submit Colonel Faber's estimate however for the pleasure of Govt., but I cannot support it by countersigning it because I consider its amount extravagant, & the work it provides for unnecessary; & because moreover I cannot gather from Colonel Faber's letter No. 365 any definite or satisfactory explanation of the reasons he appears to have discovered for adherence to it. Rs. 2000 a mile appears to me to be ample to allow for putting the road referred to into good order, & I do not recommend the grant of a larger sum. I have suggested+ the entry of Rs. 25,000 in the Budget for Expenditure on it in 63/64; & Govt. will perhaps be disposed to raise this sum to Rs. 35,000, being for repair of 17 5/8 miles of road at Rs. 2000 per mile.

+ No. 280, dated 14th Novr./62

I have &c.

[illegible] Lt. Col. R.E.

Depy Chief Engineer Nn Circle

To Coll. H. T. Birdwood R.E.
Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

It seems to me that the sum taken for the repair of a Road is enormous it is equivalent to the recon-struction of the Road which could hardly cost more than the sum stated. On reference to the Estimate I see that this is the case the whole road is to be remade upon the Plan & in accordance with the specification submitted. On the one hand we have a detailed Estimate with dimensions given on the other the opinion of the deputy Chief Engr. which I confess coincides with my own that the charge is excessive. We might perhaps get the information required as to the amount of traffic still this would be no guide to any means making the road though it might guide the Govt. in expressing an opinion whether it would be worth while to spend so much money for this purpose. A thorough revision of the estimate & prices is what is wanted – and I cannot but think that is absolutely necessary from reference to the Plans I find that they afford but little information – the prices for Earth work seem to me very large a man ought to move more than 1½ Yards per day – and yet the price for Earth would enable him to earn a fair days wages by such an amount of work.

Pro. 17th July 1862 No 390 391.
" 28 Novr - - - 2851

From the Dy. Ch: Engr
S. C. D/ 6th Decr/62
No 3717
From Do D/ 21 Jany/63 No
178 in Ro.

No 330-331.

P. W. 1862 Decr
Pro. of Govt. for Decr
From No 3636.

Lieut. Coll. J. Ouchterlony R. E.
Dy. Chief Engineer S. C.

To Coll. W. J. Birdwood R. E.
Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

P. W. C. No 2139 in Ro. No 321
Dated 29 } November 1862
Recd 2 } Decr "
Encl. 13
Ref.

W. B.

Submits correspondence with the Dist. Engr of Coimbatore regarding repairs to be executed to the Railway feeding road from Koonghiem to Tiroopoor station, & for reasons stated, requests that Rupees 35,000 instead of Rs. 25,000 may be entered in the Budget for 1863-1864-

William Order.
No 3023. 17th December

No 3023.

To Enable the Government to decide on the point of difference between the Deputy Chief Engineer and the District Engineer they request to be furnished with a statement of the traffic on the road between Koonghiem and Tirpoor.

It is observed that in Proceedings dated 28th November 1862, No 2851, authority was granted for entering in the Budget of 1863/64 a sum of Rupees 25,000 for the improvement of the above road.

Col: Ouchterlony, who it is understood is now in the Coimbatore District, will be good enough on his return to the Presidency to inspect the road in company with the Dt. Engineer, & to report in what manner he considers the Estimate capable of reduction both with respect to quantities & rates.

W. B.

Cover Pore
WR

Copies

To The Dy. Chief Engineer Southern Circle with 13 Enclosures
18

Chepauk }
No 84 17th Decr/62 }

C. 11th Decr 1862. R. 12th