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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 320	Press / Mis. -
429-430.	
Dated 26-2-	1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 26th February 1862.

No. 429. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 21st February 1862, No. 686:—

Requesting His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to cause another Company of Sappers to be made available for employment at the Tambracherry Ghât. } (Vide Military Proceedings, 21st February 1862, Nos. 494-495.)

No. 430. ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1862, No. 320.

Communicated to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, for information.

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

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters:—

From A. C. BARNES, Esq., Secretary, Planters Association of Western India, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue and Public Works Departments, dated Wainád, 24th January 1862.

SIR,

1. I am directed, by the Planters Association of Western India, most respectfully to request that you will urge upon the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the very great importance of the speedy completion of the new Pass between Lecodie Fort and Tambracherry, now in course of construction by the Government.

2. The Association are aware that the work is being proceeded with under the active superintendence of Lieutenant Kennedy, with a party of Sappers and Miners, but the difficulties in the way of its early completion are apparently so serious as to induce the Association to beg most earnestly that His Excellency the Governor in Council, will be pleased to authorize the Superintending Engineer of the Division to attach another Company of Sappers and Miners to Lieutenant Kennedy's party, in order that the work may be prosecuted with all possible speed.

3. The Association respectfully submit the difficulties to which they make allusion—

First.—The Company of Sappers now stationed at Lecodie Fort is numerically short of its ordinary strength, and still further weakened by the necessary guard duties of the station.

Second.—It is impossible to obtain skilled local labor to assist in the work, which is of a difficulty nature, and

Third.—The work itself generally without reference to skill is of so laborious a character as to prevent laborers leaving lighter employment upon Coffee Estates, even should the inducement of higher pay be held out to them.

4. The Association also trust that instructions may be issued to make crossing places at suitable spots within sight of each other, and that when the road is finished the Government will not object to its being used as a single bandy Ghát. This privilege will be invaluable in the transport of Coffee to the coast, and the Association are of opinion that should the Government deem it desirable eventually to raise funds by toll for the permanent maintenance and ultimate conversion of the road (by widening it) into a double bandy Ghát such an impost upon an equitable footing would be cheerfully submitted to.

5. The Association deem it their duty to represent that in the course of a year or two the traffic on the Tambracherry Ghát will be enormous, and that unless prompt measures be adopted for making a double road available for bandies, the most serious consequences to the interests of the Coffee Planters in Wainád must ensue, and that the stoppage of the present influx of European skill and capital into this most promising country will assuredly follow.

6. I most respectfully beg your early attention to this most important subject and awaiting the favor of a reply.

From Messrs. PARRY & Co., to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 1st February 1862.

SIR,

1. In perusing the Administration Report of the Madras Public Works for the official year 1860-61, our attention has been struck by the following passage, "At the Tambracherry Ghát "trace Rupees 7,438 have been laid out in completing a track for bullocks, five and a half miles "in length, and in the formation of one and a half miles of new road at the foot of the trace. "The Sappers are engaged in the upper two miles (the Ghát by the new trace being about seven "miles long) and have completed nearly half a mile of that part of the work. A great deal more "remains to be done, but with the assistance of the Sappers, it is hoped that the whole of the "Ghát will be finished as a bullock track by the close of the next working season."

2. The work referred to in this Extract is of so much importance to the public generally, to those immediately interested in the Coffee cultivation of Wainád, and to the Government itself, that we trust we shall be pardoned for intruding on your time with a few remarks on the subject.

3. The principal Coffee cultivation of the District is carried on in the neighbourhood of the Tambracherry Ghát, and as the Estates belonging to ourselves are in the same quarter, we have some information respecting the works in progress.

4. The great want of the District is a good sandy road by the Tambracherry Ghát to the coast, a bullock track is altogether inadequate to meet the requirements of the country, any road which is made must (to be of service) be adapted to wheel traffic. We believe Government have recognized this fact, and given orders that such a work shall be executed without delay.

5. Our principal object in now addressing you is to call to the notice of the Government, the very slow progress which is being made in carrying through this most important undertaking.

6. One Company of Sappers only are now employed on the top of the Ghát, with scarcely more than fifty men available, and it is believed that even for these, the supply of tools is insufficient. It is quite possible that the eagerness and anxiety felt by the owners of Estates in Wainád, for the completion of the road, may lead them to underrate the exertions of the party employed on it, but it is beyond a doubt that an addition to the force is imperatively needed. Another Company of Sappers if it can be spared, and local labor also to a large extent, should be availed of. Delay in the execution of the work will be the cause of disaster to many.

7. There is a very large production of Coffee in prospect, from Estates now coming to maturity. The present means of conveyance is of necessity entirely by bullocks, and with very large additional produce coming forward, the supply of this species of carriage will be exhausted long before even a small proportion of the demand for it is satisfied. Unless a good bandy road be available it will be impracticable therefore to remove an immense quantity of the Coffee from the ground on which it is grown. The serious nature of such a state of things needs no comment. We doubt not that the Government are alive to the importance of this matter, and it is with the earnest hope that measures may be at once adopted for accelerating a work of so high interest to all, that we have ventured to urge upon the Government the views which private interests lead ourselves, and all other proprietors of Coffee Estates in Wainád, we believe without exception, to take of this public undertaking.

8. We are not quiet sure that in addressing you we have applied to the Department which has the control of the business on which we have written. If we are in error we request you will have the kindness to pass on the communication to the proper quarter.

ORDER THEREON, 19th February 1862, No. 255.

1. These papers will be communicated to the Military Department, where it will be considered whether it is possible to obtain the services of another Company of Sappers and Miners for employment on the Tambracherry Ghát.

2. The Government are particularly desirous that this Ghát should be completed with all practicable despatch, and to secure this they consider the services of an additional Company to be very necessary.

3. It is observed that the Company now employed on the Ghát are stated to be wanting in tools. The Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, will call upon the District Engineer to state whether such is the case.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Military Department.
„ Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Copy sent as Letter to England dated 31st October 1862

Public Works 1862 Departt
Pro: of Court for February
No 340

Pro: of the Madras Govt
in the Military Departt

Dated 21st February 1862
Recd 24th
No 686.

No 320.

Communicated to the Deputy Chief Engineer Southern Circle for information.

Requesting His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to cause another Company of Sappers to be made available for employment at the Tambaram Cherry State.

William Order
No 320 - 26th Feb.

Military Department
No 686.

Communicated to the Commander in Chief, with a request that the Excellency will, if possible, cause another Company of Sappers to be made available for employment at the Tambaram Cherry State - and that it may be directed to proceed there forthwith.

Fort St. George
21st Feby 1862

Secretary to Govt

To the Departt of Public Works.
" Quarter Master Genl of the Army.
" Adjutant General
" Controller of Mily Finance.
" Commandant of Engineers.
for information

Copy sent as Letter to England dated 31st October 1862.
Chief Engineer Southern Circle
Chief Engineer Eastern Circle
Chief Engineer Western Circle
Chief Engineer Central Circle
Chief Engineer Nilgiri Circle
Chief Engineer Coorg
Chief Engineer Travancore
Chief Engineer Cochin

No 429 & 430.