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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1623	Press
		Mis.
Dated	22.6.	18 03.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government Public Works Department,
22nd June 1863.*

No. 491. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer 7th Division, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secre-
tary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coimbatore, 9th June 1863,
No. 17 :—

SIR,

1. As requested in the last paragraph of the accompanying letter I submit it, in original,
for the orders of Government; as I am unable, on
Malabar Collector's No. 1,798 of 4th June 1863. grounds which I have fully detailed for Mr. Ballard's
information, to authorize the widening to eighteen feet
of the Tambracherry Ghát, with the sum of Rupees 6,000 sanctioned by Government and not more
than sufficient for opening it to twelve feet. I have ordered the preparation of the Estimates for
opening to eighteen feet, and detailed Assistant Overseer Campbell from the Karkoor Ghát works,
(necessarily in abeyance during the monsoon) to attend to them; and beyond that the orders
of Government do not permit me to go. I shall be very glad if Mr. Ballard's representations
result in placing at our disposal for widening to eighteen feet as much as Lieutenant Kennedy
can get through in the season; say Rupees 14,000 in addition to the Rupees 6,000 already
sanctioned. But even in that case, if the details of our operations are left in my hands, I shall
not instruct Lieutenant Kennedy to widen to eighteen feet, till a uniform width of twelve feet
throughout has been attained.

2. In the first place I am convinced that for a traffic chiefly in one direction, and under
proper restrictions, a width of twelve feet is very practically useful. By proper restrictions I
mean, limiting down-traffic to the hours between midnight and noon, and up-traffic to the other
twelve; and making return cattle, without loads, continue to use the old line. Secondly, I
object to widen to eighteen feet during the monsoon months of June, July and August; personal
experience having proved to me that the soil becomes positively unworkable when much handled
in such heavy weather. Thirdly, in the want of personal acquaintance with the Ghát I am at
a loss to reconcile paragraph 6 of Mr. Ballard's present letter, stating "that the Ghát is ten
feet now throughout the greater part of its length," with the apparently discrepant testimony
given in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 of his letter to Government No. 42 of 24th April. I think he has
over-shot the mark, and been led away into special pleading, to carry out a matter of detail
which he has at heart, but about which I consider him in the wrong.

No. 492. ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1863, No. 1,623.

Government will await Colonel Walker's Estimate for widening the trace to eighteen feet.

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

N. 1790

Cabaret 4 June 1863

From

G. A. Ballard Esq
Collector of Malabar

To

Lieut. Colonel C. E. Walker
Superintending Engineer - 7 Division

Coimbatore

Sir,

Adverting to Government
Order dated the 15 Ultimo N. 1233,
and your Memo to the District
Engineer of Malabar dated 2nd Instant
(with copy of which you favored me)
I beg your attention to a few remarks
which after much consideration of
the Pambencherry Ghat question,
several visits to the locality, and
the support of the opinion of
several well qualified to judge,
I venture to make.

2. I was in hopes that, the
Government do not expressly al-
lude to the point, as they appear
generally to approve of the proposition
contained in my letter of the 24 April
1863 N. 42 by ordering the preparation
of an estimate, - a commencement

would at once be made to open the lower portion of the ghat to 10 feet, with masonry arches or timbered spans on masonry abutments, for the bridges; from the Rupees 6000 lately sanctioned, - that the regular estimate would be put in hands at once, the Rs. 6000 being looked upon simply as an advance on account, - that sanction might thus be obtained for the funds requisite for the complete undertaking before the Rs. 6000 was expended, - and that the permanent work, thus commenced without delay, might go on without check.

3. I would only have left the places at which attempts at immediate clearance of the rocky obstructions to 10 ft would have seriously delayed the general operations at a lesser width at the discretion of the Engineer, - the only proviso being that there should be ample room for cart traffic.

4. This done the ghat would be opened and tolled. - It would thenceforth only require to be maintained, and the few narrower places that had been left at the obstructions would be gradually

widened, - operations which need in no way obstruct the traffic.

5. You appear to contemplate opening at 12 ft road throughout and sloping into and paving the mallas, - leaving the ghat, as it is to be, to be done over again.

6. Considering that the ghat is 10 ft now throughout the greater part of its length, and that the permanent bridging and opening to 10 ft is accepted as to be done, I cannot but anxiously question the policy of opening to 12 ft, and cropping the mallas by any further temporary expedients, as an intermediate measure.

7. For what is the half step to be taken? It is not required for bullocks, for neither bullock nor coolies will use the ghat as long as a beast with four legs can stumble down the old trace. - As to carts, they will be somewhat chary of starting unless the way is made very plain for them, - and even if we get them started

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at once we shall have almost immediately to obstruct and check the rising traffic by the recommencement of operations to construct the permanent bridges, and widen the roadway to 18 ft.

The nature of the locality must utterly prevent the permanent work being done without stopping for the time any traffic that may have sprung up on the temporary road.

8. It seems to me therefore that the minor operation, even if advisable in itself, will be speedily rendered useless by the second, - for we all agree that the second is to be carried out with all possible despatch and I do earnestly recommend that the one operation only be undertaken, and that that be the complete and permanent opening of the lower ghat.

9. I would not have pressed this so strongly on your attention had I not as before said thought much on the subject - and known that Captain Kennedy, with his long experience on the ghat, & others entirely agreed with me - Captain Kennedy's opinion is very strong that the permanent work (whatever that may be decided to be) should henceforth

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be carried out in one operation: and tho' owing to Captain Bean's absence on leave, I have not had the advantage of discussing the question as fully with him as with Captain Kennedy, I know that he (Captain Bean) advocates opening earthwork and loose rock to 18 ft. at once, leaving the portions only that require blasting at 12 ft or thereabouts for the present, but insisting on their being opened now to 18 ft should delay the opening of the ghat inconveniently and unnecessarily.

10. Should you not feel authorized or see fit to commence operations on the principles here advocated with the Rs 6000 already sanctioned, I would beg the favor of your laying the case with this letter before the Government in order that the final expression of their decision on the subject may be taken.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obed^t. Serv^t.

G. A. Ballantyne.
Collector.

In a letter

from

the Secretary of the
of the Committee

the day to day (A. B. W.)

the day to day

Dated 9th

Dec. 1883

1883

1883

Mr. Spence, letter in
the subject of the copy
sent to Mr. W. H. 1883 of
the same 1883

Rec'd April 1863 at 69
 15th May 258-259
 To the Suprgs:
 You Supd. 23rd

To W 1868 Depts
From Secy of Legation
20.11.846.
The Supr. Eng. 7th Division
Coimbatore.
To, The Secy. to Govt. O.P.W.
Madras.

Dated 9th {
Decr 11. } June 1863.

B. 17.
Enclosure 1.

Forwards Mr. Ballard's letter
on the question of opening
the Tambrachery Ghaat
to 18 feet width - with his
remarks -

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No 1623 - 22^o June.

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Government will assist Colonel

Walkers Estimate for widening the street

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Chief Justice of the Division

Wm. D. Phelps, Secy. Anti-Sl. Socy.

Chelmsford
22nd June/03

N^o 491. 492.