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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd January 1864.*

No. 516. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel O. W. S. CHAMBERS, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Waltair, 11th January 1864, No. 2,070:—

SIR,

* No. 3,701 of 15th December 1863.

1. In acknowledging the receipt of the Order* of Government as per margin, and in reporting the departure of the H. Company of Sappers from the Kalingia Ghât to Russelcondah, I beg to offer the following remarks.

2. Whilst it is, as Colonel Hill observes, more than doubtful economy sending trained Soldiers to execute work in a notoriously malarious locality, such as the Kalingia Ghât, yet as the men had been sent there, and nearly half the working season had elapsed, it was false economy moving them till the working season was over.

3. More sickness is generated by the march up the Ghât and the march down again to Russelcondah than by a residence on the top of the Ghât, an elevated plateau, where the Sappers were located and comfortably housed—in proof of which I mention that it has been reported to me that there were but eight cases in Hospital when the Company left the work.

4. The actual Ghât work is so near completion that a few more weeks would have completed it, and it is on the Ghât work, where blasting is necessary, that the Sappers are so useful—common work can be executed by common labor, but blasting rock is a speciality.

5. It is more than doubtful whether the Ghât will be opened this season, though every effort is being made to effect its completion; it is even problematical whether one part of the line, that at a spot called Tiger rock, can be established without trained labor.

6. Had notice been given me that the men were to be removed I might have been able to prevail on Government to let them remain six weeks longer, and the object for which valuable lives have been lost and much sickness incurred, namely, the establishment of a cart-road from the plains to the table land above the Ghât, would have been effected, as it is this communication must take its chance of being ever established.

7. Above the Ghâts it was estimated that there was still a year's work to be done in 1864-65, to take the line to the Bengal frontier—at present I am unable to say within what period the road will be completed.

No. 517.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1864, No. 256.

Communicated to the Military Department with reference to its Proceedings No. 3,903, dated 8th December 1863.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.

„ Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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Superintending Engineer
No 2070. Office of S^r W. W. W. W.
11th January 1864.

From
Lieutenant Col^l Chambers R.E.
To
Superintending Engineer
Colonel Charles. A. Kerr R.E.
Secretary to Government &c.
Madras.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt
of the order of Government, as per mar-
gin, and in reporting the departure
of the 2^d Company of Sappers from
the Kalingia Ghat to Russelcondah,
they to offer the following remarks:
2. Whilst it is, as Colonel Hill
observed, more than doubtful economy
sending trained soldiers to execute
work in a notoriously malarious loca-
-lity, such as the Kalingia Ghat, yet
as the men had been sent there and
nearly half the working season had
elapsed

No 2070 of
10th Dec 63.

chased, it was false economy moving them till the working season was over.

3. More sickness is generated by the march up the Ghat and the march down again to Rupsicoudah than by a residence on the top of the Ghat, an elevated plateau, where the Sappers were located and comfortably housed; in proof of which I mention that it has been reported to me that there were but 8 cases in Hospital when the Company left the work.

4. The actual Ghat work is so near completion that a few more weeks would have completed it, and it is on the Ghat work, where blasting is necessary, that the Sappers are so useful: common work can be executed by common labor, but blasting rock is a speciality.

5. It is more than doubtful whether the Ghat will be opened this

season, though the effort is being made to effect the completion; it is now a practical question whether one part of the line, that is, a spot called Rupsicoudah, can be established without the aid of the Ghat.

6. But nature has given me that which nature has denied the Government. I have been able to find on Government land, during my recent weeks of stay, a spot for which I had been looking for a long time, and which would be a great advantage to the Government, namely, a spot for a post road from the Ghat to the hill land beyond the Ghat. It would have been a great advantage to the communication and would have been a great advantage to the Government.

7. It is also a fact that it was estimated that it would still be a year or more before it was possible to take the Ghat to the top of the hill.

