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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

GO. No.	205	Press Mis.
615-616		
Dated 28	18	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th January 1864.*

No. 615. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. HITCHINS, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to
Government, Department Public Works, dated Cuddalore, 15th January 1864,
No. 1,740:—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of Government dated the 2nd December 1859,
No. 2,812, I have the honor to submit herewith the papers
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated
26th November 1860, No. 5,482.
Do, dated 17th December 1860, No. 5,917. noted in the margin, which relate to the Chuttrums proposed
to be constructed both at Topoor and Adamancottah.

2. On a reference to those papers, it will be observed that the Board of Revenue after
some previous correspondence were of opinion that "except repairing the old Choultry at
"Topoor to the extent necessary to make it serviceable, no further step should be taken in the
"matter till experience shall have indicated the direction in which traffic is likely to be mainly
"developed by the opening of the Railway." The Estimate for its repairs, amounting to
Rupees 1,000, was prepared by the late District Engineer and sent to the Collector in February
1861, for his countersignature and for transmission to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern
Circle, but Captain Gahagan in his letter* to that Officer states

* Dated 22nd October 1861, No. 149.

that the papers were kept back by the Collector on the ground
that it would be inexpedient to expend any money on the Chuttrum until the effect of the Rail-
way in the traffic through Topoor had been noted. Nothing further appears to have taken
place in the matter.

3. The Executive Engineer in charge of the Salem Range will now be requested to cause a
return of traffic &c., passing on that road to be kept for the space of two or three months, and
submit it with his opinion as to whether the Choultry should be repaired or given up. If it
happens that it should be kept up, the cost of its repairs can be met from the Local Funds.

4. With regard to the proposed new Choultry at Adamancottah, I beg to refer you to
paragraph 15 of the late Chief Engineer's letter to the Board
of Revenue, dated 15th November 1860, No. 7,020, from which
it is clear that it cannot be made an exception to the rule
re-affirmed in Proceedings of Government dated 6th October 1859, No. 2,380.

5. Under the circumstances above stated, I request that the Government will be pleased
to authorize the Order, dated 2nd December 1859, No. 2,812, to be removed from the Unan-
swered Reference List.

No. 616.

ORDER THEREON, 28th January 1864, No. 305.

Authority granted as requested in the last paragraph.
(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Countersignature and for transmission to the
Dy. Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, but Capt.
Gahagan*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th November 1860.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, D. P. W., to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Chepauk, 15th November 1860, No. 7,020 :—

Enclosures 28 (to be returned)—for particulars see last page. 1. I have the honor to forward two plans and Estimates, one amounting to Rupees 5,400 for constructing a Native Choultry at Topoor, in the District of Salem, with *brick in Chunam*, and the other for Rupees 3,200 for the same work, but with *brick in clay*, and on a different design; and to request that you will be good enough to favor me with the opinion of the Board of Revenue thereon, at an early date.

2. With a view to put the Board in full possession of the correspondence which has taken place on the subject between this Office, the Collector, and the District Engineer, the following particulars are detailed, and the original papers are herewith forwarded for reference.

3. In Extract from Minutes of Consultation, No. 1,296, dated 29th July 1856, copy herewith forwarded, Government conditionally sanctioned an Estimate of Rupees 4,000 for entry in the Budget of 1857-58, for a new Choultry at Topoor, the old building at that place being then reported to be "greatly dilapidated."

No. 481, dated 21st October 1858.

4. Subsequently, the District Engineer represented that the traffic through Topoor on Trunk Road No. 5, would be materially reduced as soon as the Railway was open to Salem, consequently so large a Choultry as had been sanctioned for native travellers would not be required for that place; and as he stated, with the full concurrence of the Collector, recommended that the Choultry should be built at the Railway station at Sooramangalum, instead of at Topoor. The reasons assigned by Captain Gahagan for recommending the change of site "are (1) the very inadequate accommodation to be found at present in Salem for travellers, and (2) the distance (three miles) between the Town of Salem and the Railway station, which will probably induce most travellers from a distance to halt at the new Town of Sooramangalum (close to the station) instead of at Salem."

No. 4,952, dated 29th October 1858.

No. 587, dated 18th November 1858.

5. Captain Gahagan was then requested to forward copy of the Collector's letter expressing his concurrence in the proposed change of site; to which that Officer replied, that no correspondence had passed on the subject between himself and the Collector, but that he had had a verbal communication with that gentleman before he proceeded to England. He, however, addressed Mr. Brett on the 2nd November 1858, and from his reply (extract* from which is annexed to the District Engineer's letter) it appears that that gentleman was in doubt as to the comparative claims of the Railway stations at Mullapuram and Sooramangalum, the Salem Railway station.

* Dated 13th November 1858.

No. 6,047, dated 7th December 1858.

6. As Mr. Brett did not fully concur in Captain Gahagan's proposal for the change of site, the latter Officer was requested to forward a full and distinct report, in communication with that gentleman, as to the advisability of erecting the Choultry at Sooramangalum instead of at Topoor, as originally intended. Captain Gahagan was at the same time asked to state the measures he would adopt for sheltering travellers at Topoor, in the event of the Choultry being built where he suggested.

No. 820, dated 2nd February 1859.

7. In reply, Captain Gahagan forwarded a letter from the then Acting Collector Mr. Hathaway, from which it appeared that that gentleman was of opinion that the Choultry should be built on the Topoor Pass; and accordingly, the late Chief Engineer, Colonel Faber, who entirely concurred with the Acting Collector, directed the District Engineer to carry out the original sanction, making no deviation whatever from Mr. Brett's intention of 21st January 1856.

No. 7,885, dated 15th February 1859.

Counter signature and for transmission to the
Dy. Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, but Capt.
Gahagan

ENCLOSURE No. 11.

ABSTRACT.—No. 5,927, from District Engineer Salem, dated 11th August 1860, in Cons. 16th November 1860. In reply to the Chief Engineer's letter, No. 11,068 of the 6th November 1860, forwarding an Estimate and plan for the construction of a Choultry for native travellers at Topoor on Trunk Road No. 5.

ENCLOSURE No. 12.

ABSTRACT.—No. 5,927, from District Engineer Salem, dated 24th February 1860, in Diary 6th March 1860. Offering a few remarks in regard to Topoor Choultry referred to in the Deputy Chief Engineer's letter, dated 10th February 1860.

ENCLOSURE No. 13.

ABSTRACT.—No. 5,927, from District Engineer Salem, dated 7th December 1858, in Cons. 16th November 1860. Requests to forward a full and distinct report in communication with the Collector as to the advisability of erecting the Travellers' Bungalow at Sooramangalum instead of at Topoor; also to state the measures he would adopt for sheltering travellers at Topoor.

ENCLOSURE No. 14.

ABSTRACT.—No. 5,927, to Government, dated 27th October 1859, in Cons. 16th November 1860. Recommends for reasons stated that the Estimate for the Topoor Choultry at Salem amounting to Rupees 4,000 be cancelled, and the accompanying revised Estimate amounting to Rupees 1810, for constructing a Choultry at Adamancottah be sanctioned, the excess (Rupees 810) was the original Estimate for this work being defrayed from that allowed for the Topoor Choultry.

ENCLOSURE No. 15.

ABSTRACT.—No. 5,927, to Acting Collector Salem District, dated 10th February 1860. Points out that the Sattiram at Topoor is likely to be abandoned by travellers when the Railway is open to Salem, and calls for further information regarding the Sattiram.

ENCLOSURE No. 16.

ABSTRACT.—No. 5,927, to District Engineer Salem, dated 6th March 1860. Inquires whether a smaller building cannot be constructed at much less expense than the proposed Topoor Sattiram.

ENCLOSURE No. 17.

ABSTRACT.—No. 5,927, from Salem, dated 11th August 1860. Plan.

ENCLOSURE No. 18.

ABSTRACT.—No. 5,927, from Salem, dated 11th August 1860. Plan.

ENCLOSURE No. 19.

ABSTRACT.—No. 5,927, from Salem, dated 11th August 1860. Revised Estimate of the probable expense of constructing a Native Choultry at Topoor in Salem District.

Ordered to be referred for the opinion of the Collector of the District who has resumed charge since Mr. Knox was addressed on the subject. Mr. Brett is requested to report his opinion briefly, and with as little delay as possible.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary.

To H. A. Brett, Esq., Collector of Salem,
with 28 Enclosures to be returned.

Copy to Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Horsley, Chief Engineer, D. P. W.

Ed. J. Wright.

No. 5,917.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 17th December 1860.

Read the following letter from H. A. BRETT, Esq., Collector of Salem, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated 6th December 1860, No. 305 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 26th November 1860, No. 5,152,* forwarding copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer, with 28 Enclosures, referring to certain Plans and Estimates for constructing a new Native Choultry at Topoor.

2. The Chief Engineer submitted with his letter a revised Estimate for the construction of a new Choultry, amounting to Rupees 5,400, and requested the Board would give him their opinion on the following points :—1st, as to the best site for the Choultry in question; 2ndly, whether, if the site were changed, the old building at Topoor should be allowed to go to ruin, or be repaired partially; 3rdly, whether the establishment now maintained for the service of that building, at a cost of Rupees 198 yearly, should be continued or not.

3. The Board request me to give my opinion briefly on the above points.

4. I think it inadvisable that the Government should at present incur the expense of constructing a new building, either at Topoor or at any other place. It is evident from the past correspondence that the several officers who have given an opinion on the subject have felt great doubt where the Choultry ought to be placed, to be of real service to the public. I am of opinion that this question cannot be solved to any one's satisfaction till the Railway has been opened for some time. It seems uncertain whether Native travellers coming to Salem by rail will not usually prefer to go on at once from the station to the town, a distance of only three miles, rather than stop at Sooramangalum, the place at which the District Engineer proposed to build the Choultry.

5. I cannot agree with Mr. Knox in supposing that any important amount of traffic will pass by Topoor after the Railway is opened, nor can I say positively that Native travellers would care to have a Choultry at Mullapooram, another place named by the District Engineer.

6. With regard to the 2nd and 3rd points, it would not, I think, be proper at once to abandon the old building at Topoor. No great expenditure will be required to keep it in a tolerable state for some time yet. Nor would I recommend, at this moment, that the establishment should be abolished. It will be evident in a year or two after the Railway is opened to Salem, whether the building and the establishment are still of any service to travellers or not. I therefore suggest that some little further time should be allowed before these two last points are finally disposed of.

7. The Government observe in the Proceedings noted in the margin,* that a Police force was kept up on the Topoor Ghaut at a cost of 306 Rupees yearly, out of the funds originally belonging to the Chuttrum. I beg to state that this expenditure will cease from the time the new Police is introduced into the Darnipuri Taluk, which will be a month or two hence.

8. I also wish to explain that Mr. Knox was mistaken in supposing that the Chuttrum had no endowment, and that consequently, it was perfectly optional with the Government to give or to withhold the money allowance made to it. The Chuttrum was endowed by the Mysore Government in the year 1698-99 with a money allowance (Rupees 1,750), which was continued when the country passed under the present Government. Though the grant was in money, not in land, it is not usual for the Government to resume money grants, whether made for charitable or for religious purposes, unless it can be shown that the Native Government intended to make the tenure a temporary one.

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9. The original object of the grant was to provide both shelter and food for pilgrims and others travelling from Benares to Ramaseram, by way of the Toppoor Ghaut. In 1851, the Collector of the Salem District, reported that the food provided at the Chuttrum was enjoyed by a few individuals who had no proper claim to such help. The Government, therefore, determined to place the Chuttrum on a new footing. They reduced the establishment, on the ground that the practice of supplying food gratuitously was objectionable in principle; but, at the same time, expressed their intention to keep the building itself in repair. It was with reference to this expressed intention that in 1856 I proposed that the old dilapidated Chuttrum should be rebuilt. On the same ground the District Engineer subsequently recommended that a suitable building should be erected elsewhere, at some place which, with reference to the new direction traffic was taking, would be more convenient to the public. We both assumed that there was a special sum available for the purpose, though the surplus funds have

* Extract Minutes Consultation, 24th June 1851. from the year 1851 been carried to the credit of Government.*

10. It seems, therefore, erroneous to say that the general principle stated in the Government Order, dated 6th October 1850, No. 2,880, is applicable on the present occasion. That order evidently refers to a case in which Government was requested to provide the means of building a Chuttrum out of the public revenue, strictly so called.

11. The 28 enclosures transmitted with the Chief Engineer's letter, are returned.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer, with reference to his letter, dated 15th November 1860, No. 7,020, forwarding the correspondence herewith returned.

2. Under the circumstances stated by the Collector, the Board agree with him in thinking that, except repairing the old Choultry to the extent necessary to make it serviceable, no further step should be taken in this matter till experience shall have indicated the direction in which traffic is likely to be mainly developed by the opening of the Railway.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary.

To Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Horsley, Chief Engineer, D. P. W.,

with 28 original Enclosures.

Copy to H. A. Brett, Esq., Collector of Salem.

Edw. J. Tulloch.

Received
Cuddalore 15 January 1864.

Lieut Col. W. H. Horsley Esq.
District Engineer 5th Div.

At Mr. A. C.
to Government P. B. B.

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of 2nd December 1859
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* Extract Minutes Council

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In Cons. 10th November 186

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To Lieutenant-Colonel W. [redacted] Chief Engineer, D. P. W., with 28 original Enclosures.
Copy to H. A. Brett, Esq., Collector of Salem.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Official Name as an

The accompanying [unclear]
Design of the [unclear] of
Revenue are [unclear]
with reference [unclear]
from this office [unclear]
Instant 10/17/40 -

W. D. [unclear] S. [unclear]

Super Engineer 5th Division
Super Engineer's office
for [unclear] 25 Aug 1864

To The Secretary, to Govt
D. P. W.
Chennai.

No. 1740

Superintending Engineer's Office
Cuddalore 15 January 1864.

From,
Lieut Col. H. M. Hitchcock R.E.
Superintending Engineer 5th Div.

To,
Colonel C. A. O. R. E.
Secretary to Government D. P. W.

Sir,
With reference to the Proceedings

Enclosed of Government dated the 2nd December 1859
Proc of the Board No. 2812, I have the honor to submit herewith
of Revenue dated the papers noted in the margin which relate
26th November 1860. to the Chuttrum proposed to be constructed
No. 5482. both at Toppoor and Adamanacottah.

Div. dated 17th Dec 1860 No. 5917. 2. On a reference to these papers, it will be observed that the Board of Revenue after some previous correspondence were of opinion that "except repairing the old Choultry, at Toppoor to the extent necessary to make it serviceable, no further steps should be taken in the matter till experience shall have indicated the direction in which traffic is likely to be mainly developed by the opening of the Railway." The Estimate for its repairs, amounting to Rs. 1000, was prepared by the late District Engineer and sent to the Collector in February 1861 for his countersignature and for transmission to the Dy. Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, but Capt. Gahagan

Gahagan in his letter to that Officer states * dated 22nd Oct.
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to have taken place in the matter.

3. The Executive Engineer in charge of the
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to be kept for the space of two or three months
and submit it with his opinion as to whether
the Choultry should be repaired or given up. If
it happens that it should be kept up, the cost
of its repairs can be met from the Local
funds.

4. With regard to the proposed
New Choultry at Solamancottah, I beg to refer
you to para 15 of the late Chief Engineer's letter
to the Board of Revenue dated 15th November 1860
No. 7020, from which it is clear that it cannot
be made an exception to the rule re-affirmed
in Proceedings of Government dated 6th Oct. 1859
No. 2380. Vide Res.
of the Board of
Revenue 3rd Dec.
1860 No. 5782.

5. Under the circumstances above stated,
I request that the Government will be
pleased to authorise the order, dated 2nd
December 1859 No. 2812 to be removed from
the

the Unanswered reference list.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedt. Servt.

W. H. Kitchen Esq. Lt. Col. R.E.
Superintending Engineer's Office.

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