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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<u>1462</u>	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
<u>314-2157</u>		
Dated	<u>15-2-</u>	<u>18 64.</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th February 1864.*

No. 314. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to
Government, Department Public Works, dated Coonoor, 14th January 1864, No. 295:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor herewith to submit an original letter* from the Executive Engineer
of Neilgherry Range, on the subject of communication between
Ootacamund and the Wynád by the Goodaloor Ghát road.
It was laid by till I could report on the subject of the Ghát itself, from personal observation,
which my late trip to the Wynád now enables me to do. Meanwhile a sum of Rupees 12,000 was
entered in the Coimbatore District Budget List of 1864-65, for making a trace and partially
opening the same.

2. I think it useless to enlarge on the subject of the necessity of improved communication
in this direction, remembering it to have been acknowledged so far back as 1846, when I was a
young Assistant in the Department. I need only corroborate what Major Farewell says as to the
growth of the village of Goodaloor; and remark, that as regards the Planters of South Wynád,
although communications with the Coast and Mysore are their chief desiderata, that with Ootaca-
mund is of next importance to them.

3. I carefully examined both the line recommended by Major Farewell and Mr. McIvor,
and that originally worked over by Colonel Francis, ascending on the one side and descending by
the other. The object of the original trace was to make for the head of the Karkoor Ghát direct;
now it is acknowledged by all that Goodaloor is a fixed point of junction for all the roads here-
abouts. The only saddle over which the old line could be turned to Goodaloor is too low in
comparison to its distance from that place to admit of its adoption without great increase of the
length of Ghát; two higher saddles are unavailable owing to precipices on one or other side of
the ridge. Miles of valuable old Coffee ground would also be encountered, compensation for
damage to which would swamp the project. The newly proposed line of Ghát could be worked
with two zig-zags only, direct to Goodaloor, including that place indeed in its last mile, and would
not exceed 10 miles in length at a gradient of 1 in 18. Its head may encroach on the Nedivat-
tam Chinchona Plantations, below which one heavy rocky obstacle would probably be encoun-
tered; otherwise it will be a cheap line, costing not more than half the rate for a new Coonoor
Ghát.

4. I was accompanied in my reconnoissance by Mr. Smith, Executive Engineer of the
Wynád Range, and by Mr. Browning, a Planter of Goodaloor, whose admirable tracing of
18 miles of the new road from Goodaloor towards Manantoddy, which he is opening out for us
on contract, induced one to hope that he might have time and inclination to take up this project.
His intimate knowledge of all the ground we went over made him moreover a most useful com-
panion. This gentleman having expressed his willingness to undertake the trace under my
instructions, and being in my opinion quite competent for the duty, I cannot think of a better
way of disposing of the Rupees 1,409-13-0 of Income Tax Funds reported in my letter No. 294
of 13th instant to be available, than by allotting it for his remuneration (on terms to be hereafter
agreed on), and for the contingent expenses of opening the trace this season to such an extent as
will enable us to judge how to lay out next year's grant to most advantage.

Forwarded through the Collector of Coimbatore for his approval and support.

No. 315. ORDER THEREON, 15th February 1864, No. 462.

1. The Governor in Council accedes to Colonel Walker's proposal to appropriate the sum
of Rupees 1,409-13-0 to the remuneration of Mr. Browning, a Planter of Goodaloor, who for
that sum appears to be willing to lay out a trace for a new line of Ghát between Nedivattam
and Goodaloor, and for a road from the latter place to meet Captain Francis' trace from
Ootacamund.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th February 1864.*

2. A report should be submitted in due course of the result of the undertaking when the Government will take into consideration the subject of making a special grant for opening the line and rendering it practicable for cart traffic.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
" Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts.
" Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

N^o 295.

Supg. Engineer's Office 7th Div.
Coimbatore, 14th January 1864

From Lieut. Col. G. W. Walker R.E.
To Superintending Engineer 7th Div.
Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government D. P. to
Madras

Sir,
I have the honor herewith to submit
an original letter from the Executive Eng.
of Nilgherry range on the subject of
Communication between Ootacamund
and the Wynnad by the Goodaloor Ghant
Road. It was laid by till I could re-
port on the subject of the Ghant itself
from personal observation, which my
late trip to the Wynnad road enables
me to do. Meanwhile a sum of Rs
12,000 was entered in the Coimbatore
District Budget List of 1864/65 for
making a trace, and partially open-
ing the same.

I think it useless to enlarge
on the subject of the necessity of im-
proved Communication in this direc-
tion, remembering it to have been
acknowledged so far back as 1846,
when I was a young Assistant in the
Department. I need only corroborate what
Major Farewell says as to the growth of the
village of Goodaloor, and remark, that
as regards the Planters of South Wynnad,
although Communications with the Cois
and Mysore are their chief desiderata,
that with Ootacamund is of next im-
portance to them.

I carefully examined both the
line recommended by Major Farewell
and Mr. Mc. Ivor, and that originally

worked over by Colonel Francis, ascending on the one side and descending by the other. The object of the original trace was to make for the head of the War. - Koor Ghaut direct; now it is acknowledged by all that Goodaloor is a fixed point of junction for all the roads hereabouts. The only saddle over which the old line could be turned to Goodaloor is too low in comparison to its distance from that place to admit of its adoption without great increase of the length of Ghaut. Two higher saddles are unavailable owing to precipices on one or other side of the ridge. Miles of valuable old coffee ground would also be encountered, compensation for damage to which would swamp the project. The newly proposed line of Ghaut could be worked with 2 bullocks only direct to Goodaloor, including that place indeed in its last mile, and would not exceed 10 miles in length at a gradient of 1 in 18. Its head may encroach on the Kaddiwattam Chinchona Plantations, below which one heavy rocky obstacle would probably be encountered; otherwise it will be a cheap line, costing not more than half the rate for a new Coonoor Ghaut.

I was accompanied in my reconnaissance by Mr. Smith, Executive Engineer of the Wynad Range and by Mr. Browning a Planter of Goodaloor, whose admirable tracing of 18 miles of the new road from Goodaloor towards Manantoddy, which he is

opening out for us on Contract. I am credulous to hope that he might have time and inclination to take up this project. His intimate knowledge of all the ground we went over made him moreover a most useful companion. This gentleman having expressed his willingness to undertake the trace under my instructions, and being in my opinion quite competent for the duty, I cannot think of a better way of disposing of the Rs 1409. 13. 0 of Income Tax funds reported in my letter No 294 of 13th Instant to be available, than by allotting it for his remuneration (on terms to be hereafter agreed on), and for the contingent expenses of opening the trace this season to such an extent as will enable us to judge how to lay out next year's grant to most advantage. I have the honor to believe

W. Walker Sicutfollo
Superintending Engineer, D.

Forwarded through the Collector of Coimbatore for his approval and support.

C-295 January 1864 A. 1755

1864

Forwarding a letter from the Ex. Engr. of Kelgherry range on the subject of communication between Ootacamund and the Mysnad by the Goodaloor Ghaut.

1864-15-25-26 January.

1864-15-25-26 January.

1864-15-25-26 January.

1864-15-25-26 January.

1864-15-25-26 January.

Public Works Dept. No. 462 Proceedings of the Madras Government Under date the 15th Feb/64.

Read the following letter from the Supg. Engr. J. D. D.

Forwarding a letter from the Ex. Engr. of Kelgherry range on the subject of communication between Ootacamund and the Mysnad by the Goodaloor Ghaut.

Here enter 14th Jan/64 No 295.

The Governor in Council accedes to Col. Walker's proposal to appropriate the sum of Rs 1409-13 to the remuneration of Mr. Browning, a planter of Goodalore, who for that sum appears to be willing to lay out a trace for a new line of ghât between Nedawakham & Goodalore & for a road from the latter place to meet Capt. Francis' trace from Ootacamund. A report should be submitted in due course of the result of the undertaking.

The proposal of Mr. Browning to lay out a trace for a new line of ghât between Nedawakham & Goodalore & for a road from the latter place to meet Capt. Francis' trace from Ootacamund.

Submitted for orders. The Budget for the next official year has been closed, & it has been found impracticable to provide any funds therein for the proposed road; but in the current year a sum of Rs 1409-13 is available, & perhaps the Government will be disposed to accede to Col. Walker's proposal to appropriate it to the remuneration of Mr. Browning, a planter of Goodalore, who for that sum appears to be willing to open out a trace.

What we want is not to open out a trace for the country in clear land but to take the necessary survey and level what might be done in a few weeks.

1864-15-25-26 January.

when the Govt will take into
consideration the subject of
making a special grant for opening
improving the line & render-
ing it practicable for Cart
traffic.

W.B.

To
The Supgrs } Dr With 1 Letter & 1 Certificate
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Encls to the acct
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Sept 1864
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Recommendations of the High
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from the latter place to
the latter place from
Catawba, Columbia District.