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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1070 Press ~~Mis.~~

366-367

Dated 14-4- 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

12

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 14th April 1864.

No. 366. Read the following letter from W. FRASER, Esq., C. E., Special Executive Engineer, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp Vellioor on the Cortelliar, 25th March 1864, No. 88:—

SIR,

1. As a means of expediting the construction of the Madras Water Works I have the honor to make the following suggestion, viz., that a sum of 50,000 Rupees be made available, from the 1st of May for the preparation of materials.

2. The construction of the Cortelliar dam, the head and other sluices, the several viaducts and aqueducts, and the revetting of the Cholavaram and Red Hill bunds, will be the only tedious part of the works, and the completion of these would be greatly expedited if, at the time of final sanction, the whole or the greater part of the materials were ready.

3. The time occupied in excavating the channels and raising the bunds will depend principally on the number of coolies employed; and judging from the statements of the Contractors who have already applied, and making due allowance for their exaggerations, it seems that we may calculate on getting three or four thousand without much difficulty. This number, properly handled, should get through the earthwork in a short time.

4. For the Cortelliar dam laterite can be got from the low hills which lie between that river and the Narnávaram, and I am informed that the best quarry is about four or five miles from the proposed site.

For revetting the two bunds laterite can be got in the adjoining hills. For all works north of the Red Hills laterite must be used and can generally be got at moderate distances.

For those towards Madras we must use bricks.

5. I make this proposition on the assumption that there is no doubt but that the works will be undertaken. There would probably be some loss sustained if the materials were prepared, and if the project were eventually abandoned.

The loss, however, would be only on these materials prepared for the dam, as any stone prepared for the other works could probably be sold at a profit.

6. In the above remarks I have made no allusion to lime, as the only description now used is that from shells which are brought, at great expense, from the coast.

In the course of enquiry on this subject I was informed that for the building of Fort Saint George, stone lime was sent in by the people of Alamády, a village near Cholavaram lake, but that the pits were abandoned on the completion of the Fort, and never used since: I have had the neighbourhood searched, and I am informed that similar limestone exists in other localities near the line of the proposed works.

I have not yet seen these places myself, but I believe the information to be correct.

I will report on this fully at the end of the month.

7. If Government sanction this proposition contracts for the preparation and carriage of store, bricks, &c., could be made next month so that the quarrying might be commenced on the 1st of May.

No. 367. ORDER THEREON, 14th April 1864, No. 1,070.

1. The Plans and Estimates for the Madras Water Works not having yet been laid before Government, His Excellency in Council is unable to pass orders upon the application submitted by Mr. Fraser. It would be necessary not only to consider the question of the mode of securing the water but also of distributing it.

2. The Government thinks it scarcely possible that the Anicut over the Cortelliar and the Canal from it can be completed in time to secure the water of the next monsoon.

(True Extract.)

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

To W. Fraser, Esq., Special Executive Engineer.

Exd. T. S. Augustin.

completion of these would be greatly

No 88

Camp, Vellore on the Cortillier.

25th March 1864.

From

W. Fraser Esqre C.E.

Special Ex: Engineer

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.

Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir

As a means of expediting the construction of the Madras Water Works I have the honor to make the following Suggestion, namely that a Sum of 50,000 Rupees be made available, from the 1st of May, for the preparation of Materials.

2 The construction of the Cortillier dam, the Head and other Sluices, the several Viaducts and aqueducts and the revetting of the Cholavaram and Red Hill Bunds will be the only tedious part of the Works, and the completion of these would be greatly

expedited if, at the time of final sanction, the whole or the greater part of the Materials were ready.

3 The time occupied in excavating the Channels and raising the Bunds will depend principally on the number of Coolies employed; and Judging from the Statements of the Contractors who have already applied, and making due allowance for their exaggerations, it seems that we may Calculate on getting 3 or 4 Thousand without much difficulty. This number properly handled, should get through the Earth-work in a short time.

4 For the Cortilliar dam Laterite can be got from the low hills which lie between that River and the Nar-navaram, and I am informed that the best quarry is about 4 or 5 miles from the proposed site.

For revetting the two Bunds Late-rite can be got in the adjoining Hills.

For all works north of the Red Hills Laterite must be used and can generally be get at moderate distances:—

For those towards Madras we must use Bricks:—

5 I make this proposition on the assumption that there is no doubt but that the Works will be undertaken. There would probably be some less pass-if the materials were prepared, and if the project were eventually abandoned. The less however would be only on these materials prepared for the Dam, as any stone prepared for the other works could probably be sold at a profit.

6 In the above remarks I have made no allusion to Lime, as the only description now used is that from shells which are brought, at great Expense from the coast.

in Council is unable to pass orders upon the application submitted by Mr Fraser. It will be necessary not only to consider the question of the mode of securing the water but also of distributing it.

The Government thinks it scarcely possible that the Anicut over the Cortellier and the Canal from it can be completed in time to secure the water of the next Monsoon.

Chepauk
14th April 1864

To
W. Fraser Esqr Special Ex Engineer

Dft. 15th April 63

x87

Mr Fraser
informed Shell Mr
Smith is unable to
leave Madras before the
end of March and
will Mr McClean &
Sole can be finished
in

P.W. 1864 Dept
Ltr. from Govt Jr. 4th April
No. 1400.

From
W. Fraser Esqr
Civil Engineer
Special Duty
Red Hills

Dated 25th March/64
Rec'd 5th April.

No. 1070 - 14th April/64

Suggesting that a sum of Rs. 50,000 be made available from the Rs. 3 lacs sanctioned for the preparation of materials for the Madras Water Works -

For orders

P.W. 386. 387

C. 4th April 1864 A. 8th

beer handed in a position to decide upon the matter until we have not only to look into the question of the mode of raising the water but also of distribution. Submitted for the orders it would be as well perhaps if Government with reference to what for the Plans should be para 62 of Proceedings of kindly I enquire be able to make the Clerical over the No 381 dated 6 February 1864

a Copy of which is enclosed
Cuttellan and
the canal proper - col
in time to send the
water of next monsoon

No. 1070

The plans and Estimates for the Madras Waterworks not having yet been laid before Government &c