M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-57.

(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1147 Press Mis.

518-519

Dated 21-4- 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Departmet, 21st April 1864.

No. 518. 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, 9th April 1864, No. 375 :—

SIR,

1. In continuation of my letter printed with Government Order No. 760 of 12th March, I had the honor to report further on the progress with the Coonoor Ghát trace up to the 31st March. The line as described in paragraph 2 of that letter has been opened out continuously as regards earthwork, to widths varying from 3 to 10 feet, along the undermentioned distances, viz. :—

	Miles.	Chains.
Head of Ghát to 1st zig-zag, ...	1	66
1st zig-zag to Stane's bridge, ...	3	16
Bridge to 1st crossing of old Ghát, ...	4	62
1st crossing to 2nd zig-zag, ...	5	8
2nd zig-zag to 2nd crossing, ...	5	23
2nd crossing to 3rd zig-zag, ...	5	36
3rd zig-zag to 3rd crossing, ...	5	58

besides which 1 mile and 29 chains, in detached portions, have been opened to bridle-path lower down, making an aggregate of 7 miles and 7 chains, or about half the anticipated length of trace.

2. The trace has, moreover, been pegged out as far as Burliar, and there Lieutenant Law has two lines for my consideration, one crossing the present bridge and another about 50 feet higher up. I incline to the former as saving the cost of a bridge, which I think more of than of cutting out two zig-zags, which is his object. Having got down so far, we know exactly what the rest of the line will be ; and in this hot and feverish season, reckoning upon Lieutenant Law's services being kept on, I have requested him to desist tracing lower down till the foot of the Ghát is cooler and healthier in June. Meanwhile, he has enough on his hands to superintend his working parties, and see that they do not spoil his gradients when widening ; and latterly he has succeeded in getting up a gang of Wudders with whom he has commenced blasting operations.

3. In Government Order No. 2,969 of 14th October, I received authority to enter the sum of Rupees 40,000 for this work in the Budget of 1864-65. It has, however, been left entirely unprovided for ; and as I presume Government do not intend it to be abandoned I take this opportunity of requesting that the necessary funds may be placed at my disposal from the Reserve of 1864-65, and that the retention of Lieutenant Law's services may be authorized till its completion. Survey and Estimates of course cannot be supplied while the work is in its present state ; for Ghát work no Estimate can be depended upon, unless founded upon the data afforded in widening to 12 feet. So long as a good trace is secured, there can be no risk in spending, without Estimate, to that extent.

4. On the subject of labor, discussed in my letter above noted, I have to add that I understand our limited operations have already affected the local supply. Every thing will be done to procure labor from a distance hereafter ; but as a nucleus for skilled labour, and that we may not be altogether at the mercy of such capricious bodies of men as are Wudder gangs, I have after correspondence with the Officer in charge of Tambercherry Ghát, and personal conversation with Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, forwarded through the latter to the Quarter Master General of the Army a proposal that one of the Companies which must be removed from the Wynaad during the monsoon should be made available for the Coonoor Ghát. Which proposal when laid before Government, will I trust meet with favorable consideration.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st April 1864.

No. 519. ORDER THEREON, 21st April 1864, No. 1,147.

The Government will be prepared to allot funds for the continuance during the next official year of the operations now in progress in opening a new trace for the Coonoor Ghát, on an application being submitted after 1st May next, and they have no objection to the retention of Lieutenant Law until the completion of the work, his salary being met, as hitherto from the allotment for the project.

(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.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 1147

The Government will be prepared to allot funds for the continuance during the next official year of the operations now in progress in opening a new trace for the Coonoor Ghat, on an application being submitted after 1st May next, and they have no objection to the retention of Lt. Law until the completion of the work, his salary being met as hitherto from the allotment for the project.

Chepauk
21st April 64

To The Supg Engineer 7th Dn
" " Controller Audr of P.W. Accounts
Dispd 22nd April.

No 87

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

From Sec.t Revenue 63 Nos 262-263
" 12th March 64 " 308-339

Public Dept
Copy of Proceedings
from
The Supg. Engr.
No 573
dated 30th Feby 5 (15)
To
The Secy. to Govt.
" D.o P. to
Madras
Dated 9th April 1864
Recd. 12th

No 375

Reporting further progress on the Coonoor Road Contract

No 1147-21st April/64

Nos 578 579

15th April/64 Dr. 18th

Written Order