M.R.O. 1—77,606—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages.....

(2) Date of repair.....

(3) Initials of the Reference.....

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1304 Press Mis.

119-12

Dated 6 5 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 6th May 1864.

No. 119. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department:—

Referring to the Commander-in-Chief letter from the Collector of Malabar pointing out the necessity for the retention of the two Companies of Sappers at Lakadi. } (Here enter 26th April 1864, No. 486.)

No. 120. ORDER THEREON, 6th May 1864, No. 1,304.
Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, 26th April 1864.

No. 122. Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Lakadi, Wynaad, 12th April 1864.

As the speedy opening of the Tambracheri Ghaut is of really incalculable importance to this part of the country, I venture earnestly to beg the attention of Government to the subject matter of this letter.

2. The progress of the Ghaut works has been very marked during the last six months and more. From conversation with the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, and Captain Kennedy in charge of the Ghaut, as well as from personal observation, I can say with certainty that the lower part of the Ghaut will be opened for carts by the end of December next, *i. e.*, in time for a large portion of next season's Coffee, if in addition to the Budget allotment of money, the present supply of Sapper labor is continued.

3. When the lower part of the Ghaut is opened for carts, some appreciable return for the labor and money that has now for years been expending, as yet unremuneratively, on this Ghaut will be gained. There is I may say a certainty of this by next season if the Sappers now here are kept here.

4. But what leads me now to address you is a report I have just heard that one of the Companies here is about being permanently removed. If this is done it will, I fear, be a death-blow to all hope of the lower Ghaut being opened for carts next season, and perhaps for several seasons to come.

The supply of cooly labor is somewhat precarious; but even were it sure and abundant, it cannot be made available for the work for which the Sappers are required.

The removal therefore of one of the Companies will so grievously retard a most important work, that I venture earnestly to deprecate the step.

5. Writing from the spot, and indeed overlooking the men's lines, I may be allowed to observe that both Companies here are most comfortably housed, that the unhealthy season of the year will be over in a week or so; if it may not be said to have already passed, and that therefore as far as the health and comfort of the men are concerned there is nothing to be urged against their stay.

To the progress of this District it is of the utmost importance.

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, 26th April 1864, No. 486.

Referred through the Military Department to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

2. The Governor in Council considers it very desirable that the two Companies of Sappers should be retained at Lakady if they can be kept there without prejudice to the health of the men.

(True Extract.)

A. J. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary.

To the Military Department.
„ Collector of Malabar.
„ Public Works Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

7th May 1864 Depth
Proc. of Govt for May
No. 1937

Rec: of Govt in the
Public Depth
Dated 26th Apl
Received 2d May 1864

No. 486

Referring to the Commr-
-er. in-Chief's letter from the Cape
of Calabar pointing out the ne-
-cessity for the retention of
the two Companies of Sappers at Lokoja-

No. 1304 - 6th May 1864 -
With an Order.

No. 119. 120

No. 1304.

Communicated to the
Staff Engineer 7th Division.

To the Staff Engineer
7th Division

No. 87

Chatham
6th May 1864

Dept 7 May

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