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Dated 11 — 6 — 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th June 1864.

No. 253. 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 Coimbatore, 3rd June 1864, No. 22:—

SIR,

1. In Order No. 462, of 15th February, Government were pleased to sanction the allotment of a sum of Rupees 1,409-13-0 available from Income Tax Funds, for the trace of a new Goodalore Ghát. Mr. Browning accordingly undertook the same under my written instructions; and last month Major Farewell and myself proceeded to inspect his second trace, the first not having been approved.

2. I am glad to report that the second will be very successful, and has proved the accuracy of Major Farewell's judgment in selection of new ground and rejection of that traversed in all former attempts. Starting from the head formerly chosen, but running down by the public Bungalow instead of by Mr. Ouchterlony's house, the old Ghát is crossed at 2 miles and 800 yards without a zig-zag, and with a fall of 207 yards. About three miles down, an obstacle is encountered of sufficient magnitude to enforce a zig-zag being made; and it was to determine its exact point and to settle further progress that we went to Mr. Browning's help. A favourable saddle, where the old Ghát will be a second time crossed, gives command of a large spur round which the trace will sweep reversing the curve without zig-zagging; and two more zig-zags (making three in all) will no doubt carry the line to the bottom. The late Supervisor Campbell had traced out the last mile from the head of Goodalore bazaar to the junction with the Karkoor, Tippacadoo, and Manantoddy roads, previous to my former inspection; and Mr. Browning has continued his trace upwards to where the lowest zig-zag will have to be formed. The portion between it and the first and highest zig-zag was not traced, but the ground is so open as to show that no difficulties exist; and Mr. Browning will complete his task as soon as recovered from an attack of fever consequent on his exposure to the Goodalore climate in the month of April.

3. Of the three Chinchona Plantations now being opened on account of Government, the trace necessarily runs through a considerable (unplanted) portion of the highest; the second it completely avoids, and runs through only the lower edge of the third, where some plants occur. On my return to Ootacamund I called on Mr. McIvor, and was much gratified by the handsome manner in which he gave his adherence to the new line; only stipulating that the bridle-path should be cut through the clearings at once, in order that he might refrain from planting below it till no further danger of damage to the plants need be feared. Above, he will also leave us 10 yards clear of the level pegs, to allow of room for catch drains. Not that there would be the least objection to his planting on behalf of Government to the very edge of the road; but should the Estates ever become private property, that width above and below must be reserved from sale, as should indeed be the standing rule with reference to all ground parted with adjoining a road or trace.

4. To enable us to open Mr. Browning's traces to bridle-path throughout, and the portions through the Chinchona Plantations to full width of 6 yards, within the ensuing season, I have the honor to recommend that an allotment be made from the Reserve of 1864-65 to the amount of Rupees 12,000 (being the sum entered in my District Budget List). And if to that it be possible to add another Rupees 1,000 (ten months at Rupees 100), to secure Mr. Browning's services in superintending the work to such an extent as he may be able to spare time from his own business on an adjacent Coffee Estate, my experience of the manner in which he has worked out a heavy contract for 18 miles of road towards Manantoddy, and is carrying out the new Ghát trace, leads me to believe that a more than corresponding per-centage would be gained to the efficiency of the work; in which statement I have Major Farewell's concurrence.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 11th June 1864.

No. 251.

ORDER THEREON, 11th June 1864, No. 1,712.

* Under "Communications."

The Governor in Council sanctions a grant of Rupees 13,000 from the Reserve* for opening up the trace of the new Goodalore Ghat to a width of 6 yards. Colonel Walker will be requested to submit an Estimate for the work as early as practicable.

(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.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

1712

No. 1712.

Sanctioned

To Under Communications

The Governor in Council sanctions a grant of Rupees 13,000 from the Reserve for opening up the trace of the new Goodalore Ghat to a width of 6 yards. Colonel Walker will be requested to submit an Estimate for the work as early as practicable.

Chief Secretary's
11th June 1864

The Supg Engineer 7th Dn
Controller & Audr P.W. Accounts
Accountant General

Dated 13th June

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th June 1864.

Ext. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th June 1861.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.