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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 749 **Press** ~~Mis.~~

Dated 11-3- 1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 286. Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department.

Authorizing the removal of the Convicts now employed on the Metapolliem road to the Lawrence Asylum site, Coimbatore District. } (Here enter 1st March 1864, No. 282.)

No. 287. 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 Muddiyanaad, 25th February 1864, No. 341:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report, with reference to Government Order No. 354 of 3rd February, that it is only from the Police reports printed therewith, that I have become aware of Metapolliem itself having been found very unhealthy by the Convicts and their guards. I was under the impression that it was only the temporary Jail at Canimar Covil, two miles nearer the Ghát, that they had suffered. They were moved to the latter place on the 15th November, and removed again on the 13th December immediately the effects of fever were reported.

2. Either it is from the bad effects of that month's exposure that the men were suffering when Captain Weldon wrote, or the position of the Metapolliem Chuttrum, in which they were confined till 26th January, being low on the river bank, is much less healthy than the high open ground near the Travellers' Bungalow. The Deputy Inspector General of Police is grievously in error in supposing that we wish to lose the Convicts' services; so much is expected from this Department with reference to Coonoor road, and so scanty are the sanctions, that we shall miss them very much if withdrawn.

3. When I took up my present office I reduced the Estimate of the road work by Rupees 8,670, the amount of the annual maintenance sanction, chiefly in consideration of the Convict labour available; and of the balance sanctioned funds have not yet been provided by Government to the extent of Rupees 1,920. So with the bridge Estimates, reduced by me from Rupees 34,400 to Rupees 19,715, out of which Rupees 12,475 are still unprovided though mostly spent. If I feared responsibility, the whole of the works would have been stopped months ago. Yet though we should have credit for working under difficulties, men ignorant of our position blame this Department for slow progress. The Railway Financial Department in Proceedings No. 625 of 25th November 1863, find that Lieutenant Trail's report does not show sufficient progress, when he had spent far more than he had sanction for. The Inspector General of Jails reports that we are behind-hand with his work, because we venture to appropriate a portion of the Jail sanction for our bridges. The Inland Carrying Company finds a scapegoat in our unrolled stones and unfinished bridges for the short-comings of its wretched cattle and untrained establishment, and now the Police accuse us of expending their valuable lives most causelessly.

4. The latter point being that presently in question, I propose to settle it by giving up the Convicts on 1st May, on condition of receiving for expenditure in next year the balance Rupees 8,670 of the original Estimate struck out this year. There will always be plenty of work for the Convicts elsewhere, at the Lawrence Asylum, Coimbatore Jail, or Coimbatore Town roads, of the neglect of which latter since the Convicts were removed the Judge very rightly complains.

No. 288. ORDER THEREON, 11th March 1864, No. 749.

1. The Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, will observe from the Proceedings of the Judicial Department recorded above, that the Government has authorized the removal of the Convicts now employed on the Metapolliem road to the Lawrence Asylum site.

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

2. With reference to the second of the foregoing papers, Colonel Walker will be informed that the balance (Rupees 1,920) of the Estimate for the road from the Coimbatore Railway station to the foot of the Coonoor Ghát was sanctioned in G. O. No. 512, dated 23rd February 1864, and that the Government will be prepared, after the 1st May next, to sanction the further grant of Rupees 8,670 now applied for.

3. With regard to the bridges on the Coimbatore and Coonoor road, the Government observes that of the Estimate amounting to Rupees 19,715, Rupees 12,240* have been already allotted. Colonel Walker will report distinctly how much has been expended on the bridges up to the 29th ultimo, and what further grant is required for the remainder of the current official year.

(True Extract.)

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

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[*] In G. O. No. 512 of 1864.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 341

Supg. Engineer's Office 7th Division
Kuddiyanaad 25th February 1864

From
Lieutt. Coll. G. W. Walker R. E.
Superintending Engineer 7th D.n

To
Coll. C. A. Orr R. E.
Secretary to Government D. P. W.
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to report with reference to Government Order No. 354 of 3rd February that it is only from the Police Reports printed therewith, that I have become aware of Mettupolliem itself having been found very unhealthy by the Convicts and their Guards. I was under the impression that it was only the Temporary Jail at Caninar Covil, 2 Miles nearer the Ghaut that they had suffered. They were moved to the latter place on the 15th November and removed again on the 13th December immediately the effects of Fever were reported.

2. Either it is from the bad effects of that month's exposure that the men were suffering when Captain Weldon wrote, or the position of the Mettupolliem Chuttrum in which they were confined till 26th January, being low on the river bank, is much less healthy than the high open ground near the Traveller's Bungalow. The Deputy Inspector General of Police is grievously in error in supposing that we wish to lose the Convicts services; so much is expected from this Department with reference

to Coonoor Road, and so scanty are the sanctions, that we shall miss them very much if withdrawn—

3 When I took up my present Office I reduced the Estimate of the Road Work by Rs 8670, the Amount of the Annual Maintenance Sanction, chiefly in consideration of the Convict labour available, and of the balance sanctioned funds have not yet been provided by Government to the extent of Rupees 1,920 — So with the Bridge Estimates, reduced by me from Rs 34,400 to Rs 19715, out of which Rs 12475 are still unprovided though mostly spent — If I feared responsibility the whole of the works would have been stopped months ago — Yet though we should have credit for working under difficulties, men ignorant of our position blame this Department for slow progress — The Railway Financial Department in Proceedings No 625 of 25th Novr 1863, find that Lieutt Traill's Report does not shew sufficient progress, when he had spent far more than he had sanction for — The Inspector General of Jails reports that we are behind hand with his work because we ventured to appropriate a portion of the Jail sanction for our Bridges — The Inland Carrying Company finds a scapegoat in our unrolled stones and unfinished bridges for the shortcomings of its wretched Cattle and untrained Establishment — And now the Police accuse us of expending their valuable lives most carelessly —

The latter point being that presently in question, I propose to settle it by giving up the Convicts on 1st May, on condition of receiving for expenditure in each year the balance Rs 8670 of the Original Estimate struck out this year — There will always be plenty of work for the Convicts elsewhere, at the Lawrence Asylum, Coimbatore Jail, or Coimbatore Town Roads, of the neglect of which latter since the Convicts were removed the Judge very rightly complains —

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obdt Servant

A. Walker Lieutt Col R.E.
Superintending Engineer 7th Dn

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
1st March 1864.

No. 26. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 20th February 1864, No. 585.

Deaths 77 last Quarter in Coimbatore and road gangs.

With reference to the Order of Government, 26th January 1864, No. 107, I have the honor to state that I this day learn from Mr. Lowry that 103 convicts, of the gangs on the Coimbatore and Metapolliam roads, have been returned to Coimbatore sick since the 1st January.

2. This and the cost of dieting, which is more than the Coimbatore rate, the inconvenience of guarding represented by Mr. Robinson, and the disadvantage always attending the employment of prisoners under imperfect supervision, induce me to recommend that these gangs be immediately transferred to Capt. in Hankin's charge.

	Daily average.	Total cost.	Cost per man.
Coimbatore.........	270	810 1 5	3 0 0
Metapolliam road gang.........	150	719 12 6	4 12 9

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 1st March 1864, No. 282.

The Governor in Council authorizes the removal of the convicts now employed on the Metapolliam road to the Lawrence Asylum site.

(True Extract.)

A. J. Arbuthnot

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails. ✓
„ Public Works Department. ✓

15 Spare copies

Exd. J. Tulloch

No. 1864 Ditto
Pro. of Govt. for March
From No. 1001
The Supg. Engineer
7th Dn.
To
The Secretary to Govt.
D. P. W.
No. 311 Madras
Dated 25 February 1864
Received 5 March

Reporting that he proposes giving up the Convicts working on the Metapolliem road after 1st May next on certain conditions —

No. 287

No. 749 – 11th March 1864

P. W. D.

No. 749

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 11th March 1864.
Read the following

Proceedings of Govt. in the Judl. Deptt.
Authorizing the removal of the Convicts now Employed on the Metapolliem road to the Lawrence Asylum Site, Coimbatore District.—
(Here enter 1st March 1864
No. 2

From the Supt. Engineer 7th Dn.
Reporting that he proposes giving up the Convicts working on the Metapolliem road after 1st May next on certain Conditions.—
(Here enter 25th February 1864
No. 341

The Superintending Engineer 7th Dn. will observe from the Proceedings of the Judicial Deptt. recorded above that the Govt. has authorized the removal of the Convicts now employed on the Metapolliem road to the Lawrence Asylum site

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[illegible] 1864 Deptt.
Procds. of Govt. for March
No. 993
Pro: of Govt. in the Judl. Deptt.
Dated 1st } March
Received 5th }
No. 282

Authorizing the removal of the convicts now Employed on the Metapolliem road to the Lawrence Asylum site, Coimbatore District.—

No. 286.

No. 749—11th March/64

site.

2 With reference to the second of the foregoing papers, Colonel Walker will be informed that the balance (Rs 1920) of the Estimate for the road from the Coimbatore Railway Station to the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut was sanctioned in G. O. No. 542, dated 23rd Feby 1864, and that the Govt. will be prepared, after the 1st May next, to sanction the further grant of Rs 8670 now applied for.

With regard to the Bridge on the Coimbatore and Coonoor Road the

G. O. No. 542 of 1864.

the Govt. observe that of the Estimate amounting to Rs 19,715, Rs 12,240 have been already allotted. [illegible] will report distinctly how much has been expended on the Bridge up to the 29th Ultimo, and what further grant is required for the remainder of the Current Official year.

The Supg Engr 7th Divn
2 The Controller
2 The AGl
2 The Publ Dept

45
6

Draft 12th March

P. W. 1864 Dept.
Pro: of Govt. for March

No. 749
Pro: of the Govt.
D/ 11th March /64

Papers relative to the removal of the Convicts employed on the Metapollium road to the Lawrence Asylum site. Coimbatore District With order thereon.

No. 286