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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 938 Press ~~Mis.~~

93-94

Dated 4-4-1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 4th April 1864.

No. 93. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department :—

Intimating that there is no objection to a grant being made from the Reserve of 1864-65 for the construction of the Burliar Bungalow in the Coimbatore District. } (Here enter 23rd March 1864, No. 496.)

No. 94. ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1864, No. 938.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

2. Orders will hereafter be passed regarding the funds required for the construction of the Bungalow.

(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.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th March 1864.

No. 308. 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 Buntwall, 9th February 1864, No. 331:—

SIR,

1. Having lately had opportunities of examining portions of Lieutenant Law's traces of the new Coonoor Ghát, and of making myself acquainted with the general features of the ground which he has as yet worked over, I have the honor to submit a few remarks on his progress so far, and on the future prospects of the work.

2. Commencing from the old Ghát head at, but on the opposite side of Coonor bridge, Lieutenant Law has worked round into the Kartairy Valley, stopping short of crossing that nullah about a quarter of a mile from "Dawson's bridge." From a first zig-zag there, a long run crossing the Coonoor nullah at "Stanes' bridge" takes him across the old Ghát a little below the third mile stone. It is on the features of ground between the third and fourth mile stones that the great difficulties of the new trace are encountered. With astonishing perseverance and labor Lieutenant Law has multiplied his traces over this ground till he has ascertained for a certainty that he can get through it without more than four zig-zags. Another clear run of about a mile brings him on to the features of ground above the site of the intended Ghát Bungalow, to get below which entails four zig-zags more. Government will be pleased to learn that the Bungalow site originally selected will probably suit both the old and new Ghâts; and that nothing need prevent its construction next season, but the chance of its being damaged by rocks dislodged in the formation of the zig-zagged road above. At any rate, the sum of Rupees 4,300 entered on its account in the Coimbatore District Budget of 1864-65, Item No. 39 of Statement No. 1, may be sanctioned at once. Lower down Lieutenant Law is now prosecuting his work, and more cannot be reported than the expectation of getting to the bottom with not more than two zig-zags above and one below Burliar; making a maximum number of 12 instead of 40 zig-zags in the original trace, and about twenty zig-zags in Mr. Fraser's conjectural line. We have determined to keep the Burliar bridge crossing on the old Ghát and to lead its foot to the east side of the Kullaur bridge, to save new constructions of that nature.

3. The character of the ground encountered by the trace is very encouraging, considering how many and how great difficulties have beset it. For steepness of side slopes, and magnitude of rocky obstructions, I have worked on no Ghát to equal this. With judicious boldness Lieutenant Law has not allowed minor difficulties to turn him from his general line or to modify his working gradient, and he has been rewarded by long runs of favorable ground between his difficult points; and where, as between the third and fourth miles of the old Ghát, nothing but a choice of difficulties was left him, he has spared no trouble to make the very best choice.

4. It is when I attempt to realize the amount of labor required to open out the Ghát that I feel the necessity of supplementing the ordinary sources of supply. Hitherto not enough labor has been obtained to open up a bridle-path one yard out of the solid, as fast as desirable; and it is very doubtful whether the small allotment of the current year will be spent, although Major Farewell is prepared to raise the ordinary rate, and Lieutenant Law takes advantage of every offer of contract and gives easy terms. And the extension of Coffee cultivation on this side of the hills will be so great in 1864-65 as to absorb any amount of additional labor that it would be reasonable to hope for. Such labor also, whether of Hill Badaghurs or of Mysoreans, is of the worst kind, absolutely out of all proportion to the 4 Annas daily hire which it receives.

5. Under these circumstances it becomes a serious question how to raise the labor required, without entering into the local labor market to such an extent as to prejudice private proprietors; and it is a question which has to be determined by the Government, with reference to the efficient working of the Wynad communications as well as those of the Neilgherries. I take the liberty therefore of making such suggestions as occur to me on the subject.

6. The two alternatives seem to me to be either a considerable augmentation of the Corps of Sappers and Miners, or the formation of two bodies of Pioneers. I should be glad enough to

have even one Company of the former as a nucleus for good workmen, but I know that the Military objections to the detachment of any more of that small body from Head Quarters may be unanswerable ; and I prefer suggesting in what manner and to what extent Pioneers might be raised, how organized, and how paid.

7. Less than two Corps of 750 men each would not answer our purpose, and it is possible that in the process of re-organizing the Native Army which is said to be contemplated, a sufficient number of able bodied men might be eliminated to form at least skeleton Corps ; or if preferable, to double the present strength of the Sapper Corps. If not, the attempt must be made to raise Pioneer Corps from new hands enlisted in about equal proportions from the Teloogoo, Tamil, and Western Coast Districts. The organization should be Military in nothing but a few names, and in punctuality and discipline ; the latter to be maintained by simple powers, such as those intrusted to Officers in charge of Convicts, invested in the Executive Engineer and his Assistant.

8. I would recommend 9 Companies of 80 men to each Corps; divided into three classes on 4, 5, and 6 Annas a day in the proportion of 40, 20, and 20. The first class to consist of men capable of the hardest work, such as blasting; the second of men of less physical power, but able to work at moving rock with crow bars, wedges and hammers ; the third class ordinary pickaxe men. To each Company there should be a Blacksmith, Carpenter and Bricklayer, on 8 Annas a day ; and a Jamadar or Maistry on Rupees 2 a day to every 3 Companies. Sunday pay to be the same as for week days, but to be earned in full only by having been at work every day in the previous week. Half pay to be given for absence caused by sickness. A Company of 20 boys at 2 Annas each, to be attached to each full grown Company of Pioneers, from which promotions into the latter might be made, and which should be recruited as far as possible from the men's families. A short Act to be passed giving the necessary powers to enlist men from year to year, and to punish to an extent sufficient to maintain discipline and punctuality. Longer enlistments dispensed with, to obviate necessity for leaves of absence and pensions ; and working hours from 7 to 5, except on task work.

9. Estimate of annual maximum cost of Pioneer Corps of 750 men and 180 boys :—

				Rs.	A.	P.
360 at 4 Annas	for	365 days	...	32,850	0	0
180 at 5	„	365 „	...	20,531	4	0
180 at 6	„	365 „	...	24,637	8	0
180 at 2	„	365 „	...	8,212	8	0
27 at 8	„	365 „	...	4,927	8	0
3 at Rupees 2		365 „	...	2,190	0	0
		Total	...	93,348	12	0

Not that a separate sanction for such sum need be asked ; each man's labor would be simply debited to the actual sanction on which he was employed, and the fact of an organized gang of Pioneers being used instead of common Coolies would not appear from the accounts of the Department. All that is wanted to start the plan is the power to enlist, to enforce the conditions of enlistment, and to punish for disobedience or neglect of lawful orders corporeally or by fine, or both.

No. 309. ORDER THEREON, 12th March 1864, No. 760.

1. The Governor in Council is gratified to receive so promising a report of the result of Lieutenant Law's operations in opening a new trace for the Coonoor Ghát, and he notices with much satisfaction the very favorable mention of that Officer's indefatigable exertions in overcoming the difficulties encountered in the prosecution of the duty, as also the interest taken by Colonel Walker himself in a work of so much importance.

2. In paragraphs 4 to 9 the Superintending Engineer dwells at some length on the present paucity of labor, and on the advantages of supplementing the ordinary sources of supply by organizing a body of Pioneers. The Government, however, very much questions the feasibility of maintaining and keeping together a body of men of the kind. Colonel Walker will observe on reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, that an attempt to form a Labor Corps in Malabar as a means of overcoming the difficulty of prosecuting works in the Wynad country, proved abortive ; and unless indeed the men of such a corps be placed under Military discipline like the former Pioneers, now the Sappers and Miners, and be made eligible to pensions, the expense of which measure is in itself a fatal objection to the proposition, it seems impracticable to resort to the proposed expedient for meeting the present increased demand for labor.

From Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, 12th June 1862, No. 12.
Proceedings of Government, 6th August 1862, No. 1,862.

3. No provision has been made in the Budget of 1864-65 for the Burliar Bungalow ; but it will be determined in the Revenue Department, with reference to its Proceedings No. 2,001, dated 6th November 1863, and to paragraph 2 of Colonel Walker's present letter, whether there is any objection to a grant from the Reserve being made for the work after 1st May next.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Revenue Department.
„ Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
„ Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Order thereon 23d March 1864 No 496

The Government have no objection to the arrangement proposed in para 3 of these Proceedings

Proceedings for providing funds for the Burliar Bungalow.

(True Extract)

C. Gunasekara

Dep^y Sec^y to Gov^t

To

The Public Works Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd March 1864.

No. 266. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Passing orders on the report submitted by the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, regarding Lieutenant Law's traces of the new Coonoor Ghât. } (Here enter 12th March 1864, No. 760.)

No. 267. ORDER THEREON, 23rd March 1864, No. 496.

The Government have no objection to the arrangement proposed in paragraph 3 of these Proceedings for providing funds for the Burliar Bungalow.

(True Extract.)

C. Gunasekara

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
„ Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Copy Rt. 1864 Depo
Pol: Pro: of Jan: for April
the Rev: Departt

No 1331

Dated 23 Mar/64
Rec. 28"

No 496

Intimating that there is no objection to a grant being made from the Resence of 1864/65 for the Construction of the Burliar Bungalow in the Coimbatore District
No 938 - 1st April 1864.
With an Order

No. 98. 94

Sent

938

No. 938.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer &c &c.

2. Orders will hereafter be passed regarding the funds required for the Construction of the Bungalow.

To The Supt. Engr &c
" Controller & Audr of P.W. Accounts.
" Revenue Department

Chepauk 1st April/64

Copy 5th April.

No 85