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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 551	Press ~~Mis.~~
355-356	
Dated 16- 2- 18 66.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th February 1866.

No. 355. Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary Planters Association, South Wynaad, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vythery, 24th January 1866 :—

1. I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Beaumont has laid the late Proceedings of Government before the Association (bearing on his offer in conjunction with Mr. Minchin) to construct the line of road between Coonuth and the Mysore frontier, viâ Sultan's Battery, with a view of soliciting the expression of their opinion on Colonel Walker's remarks contained therein, but more especially with reference to the accusations made by that Officer in paragraph No. 9 of his letter to Government, dated Coimbatore, No. 165, 2nd November 1865.

2. I have consequently been directed by the Association to inform the Government that so far from Mr. Beaumont having attempted to divert the imperial line for the interest of the Southern India Coffee Company, that he immediately on receiving information that the allowance for the trace had been sanctioned, communicated with the Association, and in accordance with their wishes, and the wishes of the District generally, made his arrangements for taking the *trace* south of the Culputty hill.

3. Colonel Walker further insinuates certain charges against other gentlemen who, anticipating that their Estates would be purchased by the Company, had supported Mr. Beaumont in carrying the road in a direction contrary to the general wishes of the Planters. The Association are in a position to inform the Government, upon the personal assurance of the proprietors of those Estates (to which they imagine Colonel Walker must of necessity allude), that they are not on sale, and have never been offered for by the Company, and consequently Colonel Walker had no foundation for making such an uncalled-for misstatement.

4. The Association are unable to ascertain what steps Colonel Walker has ever taken with the view of ascertaining the opinion of the District upon this point; he has never communicated with the Association, nor, as far as they are aware, with any individual Planter except Mr. Gordon, and as the Government are aware, Colonel Walker had again the misfortune to misunderstand the conversation.

5. The Association, while considering it its duty emphatically to deny the unjust charges brought against Messrs. Beaumont and Minchin by Colonel Walker, have no wish to throw fresh obstacles in the way of the Department of Public Works, by again advocating the road south of the Culputty hill, but they take this opportunity of deprecating the manner in which Colonel Walker has hitherto conducted work in this District. The line above adverted to (viz., south of the Culputty hill) was originally selected by the Range Officer, Major Syme, and subsequently by Mr. Smith, its partial construction being entrusted to Mr. Ferguson; a very considerable amount of work was executed on this line, between Vythery and Culputty, and only a small sum was required to have completed the earth-work; some of the smaller bridges were constructed, and it is only reasonable to suppose that had the same agency been applied to the completion of the larger ones, that the road would have been open for cart traffic some years ago, and would have fully answered the requirements of the District. Yet the whole of this was abandoned for the adoption of a new trace, which so far from being completed by the 1st of January 1866,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th February 1866.*

(as the Government have been led to suppose,) will not, in the opinion of the Association, be available for cart traffic for nearly twelve months to come, and then only during the dry months, as little or no progress has been made on the larger bridges.

6. Colonel Walker in paragraph No. 8 refers Government to his report on the line proposed by the Planters. The Association beg to inform the Government that Colonel Walker has never passed over the line now advocated by them.

7. In conclusion, the Association have to report the pique and animosity manifested by Colonel Walker against the Planters, with especial reference to this line of road. All that they have ever requested was that a fair and impartial investigation of the two traces should be made, and the best selected. They advocated the one to the south in consequence of its having been selected by the two previous Range Officers of the District, in their belief, from their knowledge of the country, that it was the best, (in which they have been supported by the opinions of two competent Engineers,) and from its offering facilities for its speedier completion. The Association have little doubt but had this road been entrusted to Messrs. Beaumont and Minchin that it would have been rapidly completed, but if left to the Department of Public Works, they fail to see that it will ever be effected.

8. The Association have been led to communicate with Government, as they notice from the Minutes of the Madras Government now before them, that no notice has been taken of the denial on the part of Messrs. Beaumont and Minchin of the charges sought to be substantiated against them by Colonel Walker.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

2nd February 1866.

No. 356.

ORDER THEREON, 16th February 1866, No. 551.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 42.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Honorary Secretary to the Planters Association, South Wynaad.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Planters Association South Wynaad
By Mr. January 24. 1866*

*To the Honorable A. J. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary to Government
From Arthur Minchin Esq
Hon. Secy. P. W. D.*

Sir,

*I have the honor to inform
you that Mr Beaumont has laid
the late proceedings of Government
before the Association (bearing on
his offer in conjunction with Mr
Minchin to construct the line
of road between Coornuth and
the Mysore Frontier via Sultan
Battery with a view of soliciting
the expression of their opinions on
Col. Walker's remarks contained
therein, but more especially with
reference to the accusations made
by that officer in para 4th 9 of his
letter to Government dated Coimbatore
16th 2nd November 1865.*

*I have consequently been directed
by*

by the Association to inform the Government that so far from Mr Beaumont having attempted to divert the Imperial line for the interest of the Southern India Coffee Company, that he immediately on receiving information that the allowance for the Tram had been sanctioned, communicated with the Association, and in accordance with their wishes, and the wishes of the district generally made his arrangements for taking the Tram South of the Culcutty Hill.

Col. Walker further mentions certain charges against other gentlemen who anticipating that their estates would be purchased by the Company had supported Mr Beaumont in carrying the road in a direction contrary to the general wishes of the Planters. The Association are in a position to inform the Government, upon the personal assurance of the proprietors of these estates (to which they allude) that they are not on sale and have never been offered for sale.

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The Association are sensible to ascertain what steps Col Walker has ever taken with the view of ascertaining the opinion of the district upon this point, he has never communicated with the Association, nor as far as they are aware with any individual Planter except Mr Gordon, and as the Government are aware Col Walker had again the misfortune to misunderstand the conversation.

The Association which considering it its duty emphatically to deny the unjust charges brought against Messrs Beaumont & Minchin by Col Walker, have no wish to throw fresh obstacles in the way of the Department of Public works, by again advocating the road South of the Culcutty Hill. but they take this opportunity of deprecating the manner in which Col Walker has hitherto conducted work in this district, the line above adverted to (viz South of the Culcutty Hill) was originally selected by the Camp Officer Major Syme, and subsequently

by Mr Smith - its partial construction
being entrusted to Mr. Ferguson, a
very considerable amount of work
was executed on this line, between
Oymery and Culcutta, and only
a small sum was required to have
completed the earth work, some of
the small bridges were constructed,
and it is only reasonable to
suppose that had the same agency
been devoted applied to the com-
pletion of the larger ones that
the road would have been open for
cart traffic some years ago, and
would have fully answered the
requirements of the district. Yet
the whole of this was abandoned, for
the adoption of a new trace, which
so far from being completed by
the 1st of January 1864 (as the govern-
ment have been led to suppose)
will not in the opinion of the associa-
tion be available for cart traffic
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has been made on the larger bridges.

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refers to the report to his report
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inform the Government that Col
Walker has never named over the
line now advocated by them.

In conclusion the Association
thinks to repeat the many and anni-
mously manifested by Col Walker
against the planter, with especial
reference to this line of road, all
that they have ever requested was
that a fair and impartial inves-
tigation of the two traces should
be made, and the best selected.
They advocated the one to the South
so long as it has been
selected by the two previous Com-
missioners of the district, in their belief
from their knowledge of the Country
that it was the best, (in which
they have been supported by the
opinion of two competent Engineers)
and from its offering facilities
for its speedy completion. The
Association have little doubt
but had this road been entrusted
to Messrs Beaumont & Minchin that
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ment of Public Works, they fail

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The Association have been
led to communicate with govern-
ment, as they notice from the
minutes of the Madras Government
seen before them that no notice
has been taken of the denial in
the part of Mr. Beaumont &
Minister of the charges ^{imposed} ^{to}
be substantiated against them
by Col. Walker

I have the honor to be
Yours obedt Servt
Arthur Mordaunt
Hon. Secy.

I do not see that the Govt is called upon to
do more than acknowledge the letter & record
it. Since coming to the fact the Director has
upon Govt's letter with his opinion, and our decision is
question his opinion.

Kind simply to record this Govt
consent for the
order of Government.

Govt. record
W.D.C.

Michael H. School. R.C.

Secretary to Govt. P.M. Dept

Govt. H. George }
3rd February 1866 } W.D. 537

Adm. Sec. to the recorder

To the Honorary Secy.
to the State of Louisiana
in South Maryland -

From printed in
the W.D. 537
copy.

L. J. Comstock
Chief Secretary

20 May 1866

Received by the
Govt. Secy of the State
of Louisiana and signed
by the Secy of the State

W.D. 537 - 1866

No 134

Received by the Secy of the State
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