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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1537

Press
Mis.

547-548

Dated 23-5-

1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 547. Read the following letter from the Special Executive Engineer in charge of Wynaad, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Luckady, 13th May 1867, No. 139 :—

1. With reference to the Order of Government, No. 1,352, dated 4th May 1867, paragraph 2, I have the honour to submit that, in my opinion, it is advisable to keep up the present arrangement of the sub-division of Wynaad into three ranges, at all events until the ghauts in each range are finished.

2. The reasons which I consider require this are, in the first place, the very great importance of these works being completed as rapidly as possible; and when regard is paid to the very severe trials these ghaut roads are exposed to from the violent torrents of rain which concentrate such a heavy fall within a limited period, the greatest care must be exercised in constructing everything in the most substantial possible manner: to obtain, however, this good and careful, and, in the end, most economical style of work, the constant supervision of an European Officer is absolutely necessary; the subordinate Assistants at my disposal, besides being subject to the vicissitudes of sickness, are anything but first class; whilst the Acting Overseers and Maistries are very seldom trustworthy, and never sufficiently well up to their work to be left to carry out anything requiring skill and care. Indeed, in the case of Europeans, they are generally men with no experience; and in that of Natives, they are rather to be classed as head Coolies, than as Maistries; nor is there any help in the matter, as we are forced to take what we can get; indeed, the crying want of Wynaad has always been efficient subordinate Assistants; and that want has been the chief cause by which progress has been retarded. Keeping this want in view, I am certain that the Range Officers of both North and South Wynaad have quite as much work as they can do justice to, without the addition of the extra travelling required for supervision of the Vythery Range and Tambracherry ghaut.

3. The keeping up the sub-division into three ranges is not attended with any extra cost to Government, as Lieutenant Shepherd draws no more pay as a Range Officer than he would as an Assistant to me; and as regards Office arrangements, by reference to the programme of the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, it will be seen that the Range he proposed to suppress was in reality not the Vythery, but the Calicut Range, though the name of the latter was retained. His recommendation was that I should have charge of the Range, with my head-quarters at Luckady, as now, and with an Assistant at Calicut. The Offices were distributed between the three Ranges, and the requirements of the Calicut Officer were to be met by detailing a member of each of the new Wynaad Ranges. This arrangement, when Wynaad was separated from the 7th Division, was only so far altered that the Officer in charge of Calicut Range retained the whole Office that was intended for the Range, if constituted according to Colonel Walker's proposal. Lieutenant Shepherd's Office wants have been temporarily met by the entertainment, on the Petty Establishment, of a Clerk and a Copyist; but the expense to Government has not equalled that which was sanctioned, as hitherto, I have been unable to obtain a Draughtsman for my own office, and Mr. Correa, who was appointed to North Wynaad, having been found not to be available, there has been a vacancy in the Offices of that Range. As soon as the vacancy has been filled up, and on the

**Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd May 1867.**

return from privilege leave of Selvainaggom Pillay of the South Wynaad Office, I propose to detail one member from each of the two other Ranges to join Lieutenant Shepherd's Office, and so keep almost identically within the programme of Colonel Walker.

4. No doubt the examination of an extra set of accounts entails more trouble on the Controller, but under the circumstances explained in paragraph 2 of this letter, and with the prospect of its being only a temporary arrangement, I hope that Officer will not make any objection when it is shown that in every other respect it is advantageous.

No. 548. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1867, No. 1,557.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 48.

Under the circumstances brought to notice in this letter, the Government will not object to the retention of the Vythery Range as a separate executive charge.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. F.,
Secretary to Government.

To Captain Kennedy.
To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Erd. S. T. Augusta.

No. 159

Special Mr. Engr. Office Wynaad
Lucknady 13th May 1867

From Mr. Special Engineer
In charge of Wynaad-
To The Secretary to Government & P. Madras.
Sir, With reference to the Order of Govern-
ment No. 1352, dated 11th May 1867, para 2, I
have the honor to submit that, in my opinion,
it is advisable to keep up the present arrange-
ment of the sub-division of Wynaad into
three Ranges, at all events until the Chauts
in each Range are finished.
2. The reasons which I consider require this,
are, in the first place, the very great importance
of these Works being completed as rapidly as
possible; and when regard is paid to the very
severe trial these Chaut Roads are exposed to
from the violent torrents of rain which con-
tribute such a heavy fall within a limited
period, the greatest care must be exercised
in constructing everything in the most sub-
stantial possible manner: to obtain, however, the
good, and careful, and in the most most
economical style of work, the constant super-
vision of an European Officer is absolutely ne-
cessary; the subordinate assistants, at my dis-
posal, besides being subject to the vicissitudes
of sickness, are any thing but first class; while
the Acting Overseers, and Maistries, are very sel-
dom trustworthy, and never sufficiently well up

to their work. To be left to carry out anything requiring skill and care: indeed in the case of Europeans, they are generally men with no experience; and in that of Natives, they are rather to be classed as Head Coolies, than as Braistries; nor is there any help in the matter, as we are forced to take what we can get: indeed the crying want of Wynaad has always been efficient subordinate assistance; and that want has been the chief cause by which Progress has been retarded. Meeting this want in view, I am certain that the Range Officers of both North and South Wynaad, have quite as much work as they can do justly to, without the addition of the extra travelling required for supervision of the Vythery Range, and Sambracherry Chant.

The keeping up the subdivision into 3 Ranges is not attended with any extra cost to Government, as Scott Shepherd claims no more pay as a Range Officer, than he would as an Assistant to me; and as regards Office arrangements, by reference to the programme of the Superintending Engineer of the Division, it will be seen that the Range to propose to suppress, was in reality, not the Vythery, but the Salicut Range; though the name of the latter was retained. The recommendation was, that I should have charge of the Range, with my Head Quarters at Luchan, as now; and with an Assistant at Salicut. The Office was distributed between the 3 Ranges, and the requirements of the Salicut

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Office were to be met by detailing a number of each of the South Wynaad Ranges. This arrangement, when Wynaad was separated from the Division, was only so far altered, that the Officer in Charge of Salicut Range retained the whole Office that was intended for the Range, if constituted according to Colonel Walters' proposal. Lieutenant Shepherd's Office wants have been temporarily met by the intervention of the Petty Establishment, of a Clerk, and a Copyist; but the expense to Government has not equalled that which was sanctioned; as hitherto, I have been unable to obtain a Draughtsman for my new Office, and Mr. Correa who was appointed to North Wynaad having been found not to be available, there has been a vacancy in the Office of that Range. As soon as the vacancy has been filled up, and on the return from privilege leave of Selvaingamm Pillay of the South Wynaad Office, I propose to detail one member from each of the two other Ranges to join Scott Shepherd's Office, and so keep almost identically within the programme of Colonel Walters.

No doubt the examination of an extract of accounts entails more trouble on the Controller, but under the circumstances explained, in para 2 of this letter, and with the prospect of its being only a temporary arrangement, I hope that Office will not meet any objection, when it is shown that in every other respect it is advantageous. I have the honor to be

Sr,

Your most Obedt Servant
R. W. Mervin, Captain
Special Lt. Colonel Wynaad

P. h. Sept.

100, 1557

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 23rd May 1867
Read the following

From the Special Ins. Engineer
Wynnad } P. h. No. 139 of 13th May 1867

Under the circumstances

brought to notice and this letter
the Government will not object
to the retention of the Wynnad
Range as a separate executive
charge.

W.D.

W.D.

Capt. Kennedy
The Controller of P.W. Works

Sept. 25th May

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Recd. Works 1867 Dep. 23rd

Pro. of Govt. for May

2nd 1557

Pro. of the Madras Govt.
Apr 23rd May 1867

Wynnad Ranges.
Authority granted for the
restitution of the Vythery
Ranges as a separate ex-
ecutive charge.

547-548

e. 17th Nov 1867.