M R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2044 Press
187-29 Mis.

Dated 12 8 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th August 1871.

Read the following papers —

No. 127. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 29th June 1871, No. 1,051.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a letter, dated 7th instant, and its enclosure, from Venkatasawmy Naidoo, the Manager of the Meenakshi Devastanum, bringing to notice the inconvenience that will be occasioned to the people of Madura by the erection of the Railway bridge over the Vigay river at the point now selected for that purpose

2. I have, as requested, inspected the site of this bridge, but, without seeing the plan or knowing the water-way which is to be given, I am not in a position to say to what extent Her Maharajahstry Meenakshi Soonderasweral will be inconvenienced by the structure in question.

3. Madura, as you are aware, is called the Cathedral Town of Southern India, and Avani Moolam is one of its local festivals. The ceremony consists of carrying the goddess and her *chupprum* along the bed of the river to certain mantapums, where she temporarily rests before returning to the temple. The ceremony is symbolical of her preventing the river from inundating the town, of which she has been, so to speak, the presiding *ex-officio* Municipal Commissioner ever since her pagoda was founded here.

4. It will be seen, therefore, that anything that would interfere permanently with the performance of this ceremony is, in the interests of the towns-people, to be deprecated. I have ascertained that although the chupprums are usually made of considerable height, there would be no objection to reduce this height sufficiently to enable them to be carried under the bridge, *i e*, if the bridge provided 15 feet clear above the bed of the river.

5. I would venture therefore to recommend, if this arrangement can without inconvenience be carried out, that it should be so ordered.

6. As Manager of the Devastanum funds it is clearly the duty of Venkatasawmy Naidoo to bring this subject forward. That the Railway, at the site selected for the bridge, cuts in half a valuable cocoanut tope belonging to him is no doubt exceedingly unpleasant to the Naidoo; but it is not to be supposed that a personal matter of this kind has influenced him in bringing the matter forward, the more especially as the Railway will have to pay him a handsome compensation for the loss and inconvenience he will thus sustain

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From the Manager of the Meenakshi Devastanum, to the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated Madura, 7th June 1871

I BEG permission to bring the following circumstances to your notice The Devastanum Tahsildar having learnt that the Railway officers proposed to fix the site for a bridge over the river Vigay at a place east of Pootoo tope bungalow, situated to the west of the Madura town, he, on the 7th March 1870, represented to the Chief Engineer of the Great Southern of India Railway that the erection of the bridge at that site would prevent the passage of the deity Meenakshi Soonderasweral during Avani Moolam festival in a very large chupprum (portable car), accompanied by elephants, etc, through the bed of the river beyond the site fixed for the bridge to the Pootoo tope, where

Manager of the Madura Meenakshi Devastanum

several granite buildings were constructed at an enormous cost for the accommodation of the god, etc, on the occasion, that this festival was celebrated for thousands of years, and that any obstruction to it would sorely affect the feelings of all the Hindoo community of this place and cause great loss to the temple, and, therefore, requested Mr Logan to fix the site to the west of the Pootoo tope Copy of his reply to the Tahsildar is herein enclosed At the importunity of the people I now take the liberty to address you on the subject

2 The Chief Engineer states that the wishes of the people will be attended to in fixing the site for the bridge I now find that the site was fixed at a place about 200 yards to the east of the Pootoo tope, where the festival is celebrated and where the mantapums are situated

3. As the Chief Engineer is not here at present, and as you are the head of the Public Works Department in the district, I beg respectfully you will be pleased to inspect the locality to ascertain the truth of the above allegations, and to address the proper authorities in view to the fixing of the site to the west of the Pootoo tope

---

From D LOGAN, Esq, Chief Engineer, to STREENIVASA NAICK, Tahsildar of Madura
Devastanum, dated 18th March 1870, No 878.

In answer to your letter of the 7th instant, I have to observe that it is the desire of the Railway Company and their officers to meet the wishes of the people in all cases of the kind as far as practicable.

2 I shall give due attention to the subject of your letter in fixing the site for the bridge over the river Vigay at Madura

3 At the same time I would beg you to remember that the most eligible and appropriate site for an important public work like this Railway is not likely to be altered without very weighty reasons in the interests of the general public

---

Referred to the Consulting Engineer for Railways for report.

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

5th July 1871.

No. 128. From the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 15th July 1871, No. 315.

With reference to the letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division, forwarding to Government a letter and enclosure from the Manager of the Meenakshi Devastanum on the subject of the proposed Railway bridge over the river Vigay, and your endorsement thereon, No. 3,107, dated 5th July 1871, I have the honour to forward a letter* from the Agent and Manager of the Great Southern of India Railway, communicating the opinion of the Chief Engineer on the subject.

* No 4,106, dated 13th July 1871.

2 It appears that as at present designed, the bridge will accommodate the procession referred to, if a small outlay is incurred each year in lowering the river bed. I need only add that any alteration of the gradients of approach to this bridge, where the station on one side and a sharp curve on the other greatly restrict the arrangements, is much to be deprecated.

From the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, to the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Negapatam, 13th July 1871, No 4,106.

The Chief Engineer observes, with reference to your letter No 211, of the 7th instant, "the "height of the bottom of the girders over the bed of the river Vigay at Madura is proposed to be "about 13 feet 6 inches This height can always be increased by the aid of a few coolies to 15 "feet or more by lowering the bed of the river immediately under the bridge The bed of the "river is of soft sand, so that the expenditure of a few annas each time that the idol requires to "be carried under the Railway will suffice to clear a way for it

"The girders cannot well be raised without a considerable extra cost in masonry, besides "either steepening the gradient (1 in 200) running down into the station, or running it into the "station Either plan at a station where there will be a great deal of traffic would be very "objectionable"

The papers sent with your letter I herewith return

No. 129. Order thereon, 12th August 1871, No 2,074.

RAILWAY, No. 16.

It appears to the Government that the officers of the Great Southern of India Railway should give a fair and full consideration to the wishes and feelings of the Hindoo community of Madura on the reference made to them. The Government should be informed whether there is any insuperable objection to the site of the Railway bridge over the Vigay being changed so as not to interfere with the Hindoo processions; and whether, in the event of the site not being susceptible of alteration, the Railway Company will undertake to lower the bed of the river on each occasion that it is necessary for the idol to be carried in procession, sufficiently to afford a clear fifteen feet in height to the bottom of the girders.

(True Extract)

Captain R E.,
Under Secretary to Government

To the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways

Exd S. T Augustin.

Manager of the Madura Meenakshi Devastanum

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

Railway Department.

No. 315

From Major H. L. Pocundergast R E.
Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways,

To Colonel J. Carpendale R E.
Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

With reference to the letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division, forwarding to Government a letter and enclosure from the Manager of the Meenatshi Devastanam on the subject of the proposed Railway Bridge over the river Vigay, and your endorsement thereon No. 3107 dated 5th July 1871, I

Manager of the Madura Meenakshi Devastanam

have the honour to forward a letter * from the Agent and Manager of the Great Southern of India Railway, communicating the opinion of the Chief Engineer on the subject.

* No 4106.J 13th July 1871

2. It appears that as at present designed, the bridge will accommodate the procession referred to, if a small outlay is incurred each year, in lowering the river bed. I need only add, that any alteration of the gradients of approach to this bridge, where the station on one side, and a sharp curve on the other, greatly restrict the arrangements, so much to be deprecated.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant.
Chas Wendey Lt Major RE.

Madras
15th July 1871

Ag. Cons: Eng. for Rly.

No. 4106 GREAT SOUTHERN OF INDIA RAILWAY.

AGENT'S OFFICE,

NEGAPATAM, July 13th 1871.

From

THE AGENT,

Great Southern of India Railway,

To The acting Consulting Engineer for Railways Madras

SIR, The Chief Engineer observes, with reference to your letter No. 211 of the 7th instant, "the height of the bottom of the "girders over the bed of the River Vygay "at Madura is proposed to be about "13' 6". This height can always be "increased by the aide of a few coolies "to 15 feet or more by lowering the bed "of the river immediately under the "bridge. The bed of the river is of "soft sand, so that the expenditure of a "few annas each time that the Mail "requires to be carried under the railway "will suffice to clear a way for it.

"The Girders cannot well be raised "without a considerable extra cost in "masonry; besides either deepening the "gradient (1 in 200) running down into "the station, or running it into the "station. - Either plan at a Station "where there will be a great deal of "traffic would be very objectionable"

The papers sent with your letter herewith return.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
your most obedient servant
[illegible]
Agent
Manager of the Madura Mine
[illegible]

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

From No. 3430
The Consulting Engineer for Railways,

To
The Secretary to Government,
P. W. Department,
Fort St George.

Dated 15 July 1871.
Received 18 July 1871.

No. 315.

No. 2674. 12 Aug 1/71
Forwarding a letter from the Agent of the G. S. of I. Ry Co communicating the opinion of the Chief Engr on the subject of the proposed Railway bridges over the river Vygay.

No 128
L Copy 1st Aug 1871

No. 878

Great Southern of India Railway
Chief Engineer's Office
18th March 1870.

To

M. R. R.

Streenivasa Naik
Tasildar of Madura Davastanum

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 7th Instant I have to observe that it is the desire of the Railway Company and their officers to meet the wishes of the people in all cases of the kind as far as practicable.

I shall give due attention to the subject of your letter in fixing the site for the Bridge over the River Vyga at Madura.

At the same time I would beg you to remember that the most eligible and appropriate site for an important public work like this railway is not likely to be altered without very weighty reasons in the interests of the general public.

I am Sir

Yours most obediently

(Signed) David Logan
Chief Engineer.

(True Copy)

Manager of the Madura Meenakshi Davastanum

No. A 1066

From
The Chief Engineer
G. S. I. R. Rly.

To
The Collector & Consulting Engr.
for Railways
Madras

Dated 18th March 1870
Rec'd 19th " "

Proceedings of Govt.
Public Works Dept.
Transmitting for the guidance and information of the Collector a copy of the letter noted in the margin addressed to the Madura Manager.

Enclosure No. 2 in a letter from the Jt. Secy. Govt. &c. &c. to the Secretary to Govt. S.P.W. No. 1051 dated 29th June 1871.

P.W. 3429/71

Enclosure of a letter from the Manager of the Meenakshi Devastanum of Madura regarding Construction of Railway Bridge over Vygay River.

S 80

To

The Acting Supt Engineer
8th Division.

Respected Sir,

I beg permission to bring the following circumstances to your notice. The Davastanum Tasildar having learnt that the Railway officers proposed to fix the site for a bridge over the river Vyga at a place east of Pootootope Banglow situated to the west of the Madura Town, he on the 7th March 1870 represented to the Chief Engineer for the Great Southern of India Railway that the erection of the bridge at that site would prevent the passage of the Deity Meenakshiunderaswaral during Avani Moolam Festival in a very large Chapparam (portable car) accompanied by elephants &c through the bed of the river beyond the site fixed for the bridge to the Pootootope where several granite buildings were constructed at an enormous cost for the accommodation of the God &c on the occasion, that this festival was celebrated for thousands of years and that any obstruction to it would sorely affect the feelings of all the Hindoo community of this place and cause great loss to the Temple and therefore

requested

requested Mr. Logan to fix the site to the west of the Pootoo-tope. Copy of his reply to the Tasildar is herewn enclosed. At the importunity of the people, I now take the liberty to address you on the subject.

The Chief Engineer states that the wishes of the people will be attended to in fixing the site for the bridge. I now find that the site was fixed at a place about 200 yards to the east of the Pootoo-tope, where the festival is celebrated and where the Mantapams are situated.

As the Chief Engineer is not here, at present and as you are the head of the Public Work Department in the District, I beg respectfully you will be pleased to inspect the locality to ascertain the truth of the above allegations and to address the proper authorities in view to the fixing of the site to the west of the Pootootope.

I remain
Respected Sir,
Your most Obedt & humble Servt

Madura
7th June
1871

Manager of the Meenakshi
Damustamm

6352

From
Venkatasawmy Naick
Manager of the Vizianakrom
Zemindaree -

Dated 7th
Recd 7th June 1871.

Encl. 1.

P. R. 3407/71

P. R 3430/71

Requests to address
the proper Authorities
in regard to the fixing of
the Lease for a Bridge over
the River Vegay, to the
West of the Pootoopet

Enclosure No 1 in a letter from the Asst. Supt. Engineer S.t Div. to the Secretary to Govt. D.P.W. No. 1057. dated 29th June 1871.

P.W. 3431/1

~~P.W. 3104/11~~

Letter from Venkatasawmy Naidu Manager of the Meenakshi Devasthanum of Madura regarding construction of Railway Bridge over Vygay River.

Enclosure No 1 in a letter from the Ag. Supg. Engineer 8th Div. to the Secretary to Govt. D.P.W. No 1057 dated 29th June 1871.

PW 8439/7.
~~P.W. 3104/71~~

Letter from Venkatasawmy Saidoo Manager of the Meenakshi Devasthanam of Madura regarding construction of Railway Bridge over Vygay River.

No 1057

Madura
29th June 1871.

From,

Lieut.-Col. R. A. Roberts R.E.
Ag. Superintg. Engineer 8th Div.

To,

Colonel J. Carpendale R.E.
Secretary to Govt. D.P.W.
Madras

Sir,

Encl 2

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter dated 7th instant & its enclosure from Venkatasawmy Saidoo, the Manager of the Meenakshi Devas-thanam bringing to notice the inconveni-ence that will be occasioned to the people of Madura by the erection of the Railway bridge over the Vygai river at the point now selected for that purpose.

2. I have, as requested, inspected the site of this bridge, but, without seeing the Plan or knowing the water-way which is to be given, I am not in a position to

to say to what extent Her Maharajahs-
-try Meenakshi Sonderaswerar will
be inconvenienced by the structure in
question.

3. Madura, as you are aware, is
called the Cathedral Town of Southern
India, & Avani Moolum is one of its
local festivals. The ceremony consists
of carrying the Goddess & her Chupprum
along the bed of the river to certain
Mundapums, where she temporarily
rests before returning to the temple.
The ceremony is symbolical of her pre-
-venting the river from inundating the
town; of which she has been, so to speak,
the Presiding Ex Officio Municipal
Commissioner ever since her Pagoda was
founded here.

4. It will be seen therefore that any
thing

thing that would interfere permanently
with the performance of this ceremony
is, in the interests of the towns-people,
to be deprecated. I have ascertained
that although the Chupprums are
usually made of considerable height,
there would be no objection to reduce
this height sufficiently to enable them
to be carried under the bridge, i.e.
if the bridge provided 15 feet clear
above the bed of the river.

5. I would venture therefore to re-
-commend if this arrangement can
without inconvenience be carried out,
that it should be so ordered.

6. As Manager of the Devastanum
funds it is clearly the duty of Ven-
-katasawmy Naidoo to bring this
subject forward. That the Rail-way,
at

at the site selected for the bridge cuts in half a valuable cocoanut topee belonging to him is no doubt exceedingly unpleasant to the Naidoo, but it is not to be supposed that a personal matter of this kind has influenced him in bringing the matter forward, the more especially as the Railway will have to pay him a handsome compensation for the loss & inconvenience he will thus sustain.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servt
Rich.d H. Roberts Lieut.t Col.l R.E.
Acting Superintg. Engineer
8.th Division

P. W. 1871 Department
No. 1054 Dated 30th June 1871
From The Ag. Supt. Engineer
8th Division

To The Secy. to Govt
P. W. D.
Madras

No. 1054 Dated 29th June
Received 3rd July 1871

Enclo 2

Submits a letter from the Manager of the Meenakshi Devastanum of Madura & states his views regarding the inconvenience that will be occasioned to the people of Madura by the erection of the Railway Bridge over the Vygay River. Referred.

Referred to the Consg Engineer for Railways for report.

Govt Secretariate
Col R.E.
Secy: to Govt
P. W. D

5th July 1871

No 127

The Consg Engineer for Railways.

6 Copies Lithd
2626 Lithd R. 25

P. W. Department.

No. 2074

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the July 1871
Read the following.

From
The Ag Supt Engr 8th Div No. 1054 dated 29 June
Consulting Engineer for Rys No. 315 dated 15 July 1871

It appears to the Government that the Officers of the Great Southern of India Railway have not given as fair & full consideration to the wishes and feelings of the Hindoo Community of Madura to the reference made to them. The Government should be informed whether there is any unsurmountable objection to the site of the Railway bridge over the

I would rather say
Should give a fair & full consideration

N.
A/A.

Vigay being changed so as not to interfere with the Hindoo proceedings; and whether in the event of the like not being susceptible of alteration, the Railway Company will undertake to lower the bed of the River on each occasion that it is necessary for the Idol to be carried in procession sufficiently to afford a clear 15 feet in height to the bottom of the girders.

G. 19th July

To The Loss Inspector for Railways

Desp. 14/8/71

Ofc-310
34/30

Govt of [1871] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Ag. Consulting Engr for Railways

Dated

Recd. Fas 4

G 012 Augt 2074.

Nos. 127 & 129

Bridge over the Vigay. Papers orders & correspondence relating to the like to be selected for the Rly Bridge over the Vigay.