M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 5

(2) Date of repair 3-7-2000

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2892 Press Mis.

276-77

Dated 14 · 11 1871 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 276. Read the following letter from the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 24th October 1871, No. 464 :—

THE Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway in his letter of the 6th instant submitted with my remarks of the 11th idem, No. 440, asked for sanction, on the part of the Chief Engineer, to the lock-spitting on the line of the southern extension, and for the land to be handed over to the Company.

2. I inquired regarding the expenditure in connection with the lock-spitting, and stated that if the outlay necessary could be met from the preliminary grant of Rupees 1,69,060, sanctioned in G. O., No. 2,414 of 21st September 1871, no time need be lost; but that if more funds were required an estimate should be furnished. As the grant of Rupees 1,69,060 also includes a sum of Rupees 33,600 for Engineers' bungalows, I made known to the Agent that I had suggested to the Government, in my report on the plans and estimates for the extension, that the design of bungalow for Engineers employed on construction should be changed. I requested that the Station Masters' bungalows designed by the Chief Engineer to serve at first for the Engineers might not be put in hand until the orders of Government are received; but I added that if the Chief Engineer does not disapprove of my recommendation, he is at liberty to build the temporary bungalows within the amount sanctioned.

No. 439, dated 11th October 1871, paragraph 21.

3. In the enclosed letter No. 3,912, the Chief Engineer says he can meet the cost of lock-spitting from the grant of Rupees 1,69,060; and also shows that, after sending off his estimates, he had proposed to provide temporary bungalows for his Engineers.

I trust that the Government will approve of the recommendations made in paragraph 21 of my report on the plans.

From the Chief Engineer, to the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, dated Trichinopoly, October 1871, No. 3,912.

YOUR No. 2,646 of 16th instant. I estimate that the cost of lock-spitting can be defrayed from the preliminary grant of Rupees 1,69,060, and have accordingly started this work.

With regard to Engineers' bungalows, my object in endeavouring to adapt the Station Masters' bungalows for the use of the Engineers was to meet the repeated orders of Government and the Board to economize in every possible way, and to put all such buildings as staff quarters in position in which they would afterwards be useful in the permanent occupation of the line. No great saving in first cost would, I was aware, be attained by the adaptation proposed by me in lieu of the ordinary temporary bungalows; but the addition to the buildings in adapting them for the use of the Engineers would, I considered, be a permanent possession to the Company, whereas the temporary bungalows have, as a rule, on the completion of the works, been useless, while the material of which they were composed brought next to nothing on being sold.

As to the design being unsuited for natives, you are well aware that it was adopted after full consideration; and you may remember that one important question was, whether we were to perpetuate the native pattern of house, with its inner enclosures and nooks and corners, so that sanitary inspections, if not entirely excluded, would at all events be difficult, or whether we should, braving the caste prejudices of the natives, adopt a more open style, which, although at first distasteful,

would eventually to their own advantage be accepted, and be free from objection on sanitary grounds. We concluded that the latter was the wiser plan on general grounds besides, and I believe that, on the whole, the design has answered the purpose.

With reference to the comfort of the Engineers, no doubt the accommodation is not great; but, looking to the temporary nature of the occupation, to the fact that scores of Government and other Engineers spend the greater part of their time in tents with not one-third the accommodation provided within the pucca masonry walls of the buildings under reference, and, looking to the imperative call for the most rigid economy, I decided to give the design a trial. After the estimates had gone forward, however, it was brought to my notice that dissatisfaction with the amount of the proposed accommodation had been expressed by certain members of the staff, and you may remember my telling you some little time ago that, although I still considered the house-room provided sufficient for bachelors, members of the staff for married quarters, the accommodation was rather scanty, and that, on reconsideration of the question, I was prepared to send in revised estimates providing temporary bungalows as heretofore.

The action of the Consulting Engineer has rendered this unnecessary, and I shall have temporary bungalows put in hand as soon as possible.

With reference to the bungalows being put "on sites as healthy as can be procured as well as convenient for the work," there cannot be any difference of opinion as to the advisability of such points being duly considered, and I need not further advert to the subject.

No. 277. ORDER THEREON, 14th November 1871, No. 2,892.

RAILWAY, No. 37.

THE Government approve of the cost of lock-spitting, the commencement of which was authorized in the orders of the 1st instant, No. 2,761, being defrayed from the grant of Rupees 1,69,060, sanctioned by the Government of India for preliminary expenses on the southern extension of the Great Southern of India Railway.

2. The design of bungalows for Engineers will be considered in connection with the plans and estimates for the extension.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Public Works Department

No. 2892.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

on the Consg: Engineer for Railways

H. E. No. 464 of 24th October 1871

The Government approve of the cost of lockspitting, the commencement of which was authorized in the orders of the &c. being defrayed from the grant of Rs 1,69,060 sanctioned by the Govt. of India for preliminary expences on the Southern Extension of the Great Southern of India Railway.

The

The design of
bungalows for Engineers
will be considered
in connection with
the plans and estimates
for the extension.

A.T.

W.Ord

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To
The Consulting Engineer
for Railways!

Desp: 15/11/71.

No. 5087.

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Acting Consulting Engr.
for Railways,

Dated

Read. Encl. 1

G. O. 14th Nov. 1871. No. 2892

Nos. 276 & 277

Southern Extension. The Cost of lock fitting on the Southern Extension of the E. & P. Ry being defrayed from the grant sanctioned for preliminary expenses on the Southern Extension, approved.