3241 | RH | 20

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 20th December 1871

No. 362. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 18th December 1871, No 3,844.—

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the immediate sanction of Government, an estimate for Rupees 2,500 for the putting up of certain traverses between the buildings at the Gun Powder Factory, in order to protect each separate building as much as possible in case of an explosion, and to prevent there being a succession of explosions in case of one building being blown up.

2. Should there be no funds available at present, I would ask that the work may be commenced at once and funds allotted hereafter from unexpended balances which are sure to fall in at the end of the year

3. I visited the Powder Mills in company with Colonel Cadell and Captain Hunter last Friday, and was struck with almost total absence of traverses to protect the buildings, and am only surprised how men can be found to work in a place where the commonest precaution to prevent a series of explosions in case of an accident are not taken, besides which there is no protection whatever for the work-people by traverses and splinter proof places. If in England, the authorities would be prosecuted for not having taken such precautions as they are bound to do by Act of Parliament.

4 After a careful examination and a consultation, in which all the principal officers working at the Powder Mills were consulted, we came to the conclusion that certain traverses must at once be put up. Many alterations in the working of the tramways, etc, were also considered necessary, and these will be matter for a further communication with Government, but I would urge that Government sanction this amount at once, so that earthen traverses may be put up during the Christmas holidays, when no work is going on at the Mills Eventually, a much larger sum will be required for casing these traverses with brick in-chunam, but at present, as emergent work, I would most strongly recommend it to be carried out. The traverses now proposed would form the cores to the ones that will be proposed hereafter.

5 The building that was blown up at the late accident was unprotected by traverses, and it is only a wonder that many more explosions did not follow.

6. I have spoken to Colonel Barrow, C B, and he quite approves of the immediate action that I now propose in anticipation of the proposals of the Committee that he tells me it is going to be held.

No 363. ORDER THEREON, 20th December 1871, No. 3,210.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 11.

SANCTIONED

2 Considering the urgency of the works the Superintending Engineer is authorized to proceed with them in anticipation of the sanction of the Govern-

available

3241

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th December 1871.

ment of India to a transfer of the sum of Rupees 2,500 from the allotment for the Ulsoor Water Project.

(True Extract)

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

To the Superintending Engineers, 4th and 5th Divisions.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Military Department

Most urgent

No 3844

Superintending Engineer
4th Division

Madras 18 December 1871

From

Colonel C. V. Wilkinson RE.
Superintending Engineer
4th Division

To

Colonel J Carpendale RE.
Secretary to Government
PW Dept

Sir,

Encl 1.
1 Estimate

I have the honor to forward for the immediate sanction of Government an Estimate for Rs 2500 for the putting up of certain traverses between the buildings at the Gun powder factory, in order to protect each separate building as much as possible in case of an explosion and to prevent there being a succession of explosions in case of one building being blown up.

2. I should therefore be grateful if available

available at present. I would ask that the work may be commenced at once and funds allotted hereafter from unexpended balances which are sure to fall in at the end of the year.

2 I visited the Powder Mills in company with Colonel Madell and Captain Hunter, last Friday and I was struck with the almost total absence of traverses to protect the buildings, and am only surprised how men can be found to work in a place where the commonest precautions to prevent a series of explosions in case of an accident are not taken. Besides which, there is no protection obtained for the work people by traverses and splinter proof places. If in England, the authorities would be prosecuted for not having taken such precaution

as they are bound to do by act of Parliament.

3 After a careful examination and a consultation in which all the principal officers working at the Powder Mills were consulted, we came to the conclusion that certain traverses must at once be put up. Many alterations in the working of the tramways were also considered necessary, and these will be matter for a further communication with Government. I would urge that Government sanction these at once so that earthen traverses may be put up during the Christmas holidays when no work is going on at the Mills. Eventually, a much larger system will be required for saving these traverses with trees &c. &c. such as

present.

present an emergency work, I would most strongly recommend it to be carried out. The traverse now proposed would form the cores to the ones that will be proposed hereafter.

4. The building that was blown up at the late accident was unprotected by traverses and it is only a wonder that many more persons did not follow.

5. I have spoken to Col Barrow C.B. and he quite approves of the immediate action that I now propose in anticipation of the proposals of the Committee that he tells me it is going to be held.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

Inspection Col R.E.
Superintendent Lt. Co.

GP

Madras.

Oct 28

Oct of 1872 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr 1st
4th & 5th Divisions

Dated Egmore 27th 1872

Rec'd 31st [illegible]

Copy to 20th Accountant No 3240

Nos. 3620 & 63

From Powder Manufactory
Madras - Rept for printing
& Annexes between
the Amildars & the
same Powder Manufactory
Sanctioned with Remarks.

Monthly Return of the Nilgiri Wattle Barks.