M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 3051—52 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~
317 to 319
Dated 18-12-1873 ~~195~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 317. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 8th November 1873, No. 594 :—

In reply to the Order of Government, dated the 4th ultimo, No. 2,441, I ha the honour to report that, in my opinion, more progress, both in the preparatio materials for the Madras-Cuddalore line and in other respects, ought to have been made during the quarter ended the 30th June 1873 than was shown in the quarterly statement.

2. So long ago as the 13th September 1872, the Agent of the Carnatic Railway Company was asked to submit an estimate providing for the preparation of materials and for such preliminary work as could be conveniently commenced before the receipt of sanction to the detailed estimate for constructing the line. This preliminary estimate was laid before Government on the 8th October 1872, and was sanctioned by the Government of India on the 30th January 1873, which was communicated on the following day to the Agent.

3. It is not easy to give a satisfactory reason for the delay in carrying out these preliminary works. I have often spoken both to the late Agent and to the late Chief Engineer regarding the want of energy displayed in this matter. There has for some time been an unfortunate misunderstanding between these two officials, which may partly account for the delay; and it may perhaps be also in part accounted for by the fact that Mr. Dibblee, the late Chief Engineer, knew that his connection with the Company would terminate in September, and was therefore unwilling to commit his successor to any large contracts for the supply of materials.

4. However much the delay is to be regretted, it is at least doubtful whether it is not on the whole an advantage that Mr. Logan, who has now been appointed to be Chief Engineer of the Carnatic Railway in anticipation of its amalgamation with the Great Southern of India Railway, should enter upon the duties of the post untrammelled by any of his predecessor's arrangements. It was on account of the importance I attached to this that, when addressing the Government in February* 1873, I urged that Mr. Logan should be intrusted with the general control and responsibility of the works upon the Madras-Cuddalore line from the commencement of active operations.

* *Vide* Proceedings of Government, 6th March 1873, No. 720.

5. Before replying to the order of Government, I communicated it to Mr. Betts, the present Agent of the Carnatic Railway Company, and asked him to favour me with any observations which he or Mr. Fisher, the late Agent, might wish to offer. Mr. Betts' reply* is enclosed, and I regret to say that it shows the misunderstanding between the late Agent and the late Chief Engineer to have been even worse than I had imagined. Mr. Fisher speaks of the condition of the Engineering Department as having become demoralised, and Mr. Dibblee states that Mr. Fisher would not let him engage Inspectors and other subordinates, so

* No. 330, dated 27th October 1873.

that he was unable to begin the collection of materials. As Mr. Dibblee has finally left the Company's service and gone to England, it does not seem to me likely that any advantage will be gained by making further investigation into the nature of the terms which existed between him and the late Agent, and into their mutual recriminations.

From W. S. BETTS, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Carnatic Railway Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Negapatam, 27th October 1873, No. 330.

YOUR letter No. 291, of the 13th instant. Not having received charge of this Company's Agency until the latter part of last month, I am unable to state from my own knowledge what caused the delay in starting operations on construction account during the quarter ending the 30th June last.

2. I have communicated with Mr. Fisher, who is now absent on privilege leave, and also with the Engineering Department, on the subject. Mr. Fisher writes:—"I fear that without reference to the official records, I shall not be able to offer such a satisfactory explanation as to the cause of the slow progress made in the construction of the line during the quarter ended June 30th, 1873, as could be desired. I quite concur however in the opinion of the Consulting Engineer, that more progress might and ought to have been made in the preparation of materials as well as in some other respects.

"My efforts to secure a more energetic attention to duty in the Engineering Department were so utterly disregarded, and the condition of the engineering staff having become so demoralised, I felt it my duty, so long ago as April last, to take action with a view to remedial measures being effected, which action resulted, as you are aware, in the discontinuance of the late Chief Engineer's services from the 16th September last."

Mr. Logan is also absent from head-quarters, and when he penned the following remarks he was unable to refer to the records of the office. I will let you know hereafter the result of his search through the correspondence of the Engineering Department.

"I cannot throw any light on the non-progress during the quarter referred to (ending 30th June last) beyond stating that Mr. Dibblee, the late Chief Engineer, told me on more than one occasion when I questioned him as to his progress, that his Assistants were busy restaking out the line and lockspitting the land required. He said most of the pegs originally put in had been stolen or eaten by white-ants. Latterly, he told me that Mr. Fisher would not let him engage Staff Inspectors and others of subordinate grades, so that he was unable to get a start to the collection of materials, the Engineers being all busy staking out and lockspitting. I regret to have to report that a similar state of affairs existed during the quarter ended 30th September last. I will cause a search to be made in Mr. Dibblee's letter-books to see if there is any correspondence on the subject, meantime I write away from head-quarters and the books referred to. No land was made over to the Company during the quarter under reference, or in the one succeeding it."

No. 318.

ORDER THEREON, 18th December 1873, No. 3,051.

RAILWAY, No. 42.

His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets to find that misunderstanding between the principal Railways officials has been allowed to materially influence the progress of work on the Carnatic Extension, but as the management has since passed into other hands,

whence energetic action may be expected, His Excellency in Council is not disposed to pursue the matter further.

2. A copy of these papers will be forwarded for the information of the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 319. (DOCKET No. 3,052, dated 18th December 1873.)

COPY of the above forwarded to the Government of India, with reference to their letter, No. 1,592 G. R., dated 11th September 1873.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

Railway Department.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

No. 594.

From

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, R.E.,

Consulting Engineer for Railways,

To

COLONEL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,

Secretary to Government,

Public Works Department,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

In reply to the Order of Government dated the 4th ultimo, No. 2444, I have the honour to report that in my opinion more progress, both in the preparation of materials for the Madras - Cuddalore line and in other respects, ought to have been made during the quarter ended the 30th June 1873, than was shown in the quarterly statement.

2. So long ago as the 13th September 1872 the Agent of the Carnatic Railway

some

Railway Company was asked to submit an estimate providing for the preparation of materials and for such preliminary work as could be conveniently commenced before the receipt of sanction to the detailed estimate for constructing the line. This preliminary estimate was laid before Government on the 8th October 1872, and was sanctioned by the Government of India, on the 30th January 1873, which was communicated on the following day to the Agent.

3. It is not easy to give a satisfactory reason for the delay in carrying out these preliminary works. I have often spoken both to the late Agent and to the late Chief Engineer regarding the want of energy displayed in this matter. There has for some time been an unfortunate misunderstanding between these two officials, which may partly account for the delay; and it may perhaps be also in part accounted for by the fact that Mr. Dibblee, the late Chief Engineer, knew that his connection with the Company would terminate in September, and was therefore unwilling to commit his successor to any large contracts for the supply of materials.

4. However much the delay is to be regretted, it is at least doubtful whether it is not on the whole an advantage that Mr. Logan, who has now been appointed to be Chief Engineer of the Carnatic Railway in anticipation of its amalgamation with the Great Southern of India Railway, should

some

should enter upon the duties of the post unfettered by any of his pre-decessors arrangements. It was on account of the importance I attached to this that, when addressing the Government in February* 1873, I urged that Mr. Logan should be intrusted with the general control and responsi-bility of the works upon the Madras-Cuddalore line, from the commencement of active operations.

5.

Before replying to the Or-der of Government, I communicated it to Mr. Betts, the present Agent of the Carnatic Railway Company, and asked him to favour me with any observations which he or Mr. Fisher, the late Agent, might wish to offer. Mr. Betts reply is enclosed, and I regret to say that it shews the mis-understanding between the late Agent and

* Vide Proceedings of Government, 6th March 1873 No. 720.

† No. 330 dated 27th October 1873.

and the late Chief Engineer to have been even worse than I had imagined. Mr. Fisher speaks of the condition of the Engineering department as having become demoralized, and Mr. Dibdin states that Mr. Fisher would not let him engage Inspectors and other subordinates, so that he was unable to begin the collection of materials. As Mr. Dibdin has finally left the Company's service, and gone to England, it does not seem to me likely that any advantage will be gained by making further investigation into the nature of the terms which existed between him and the late Agent, and into their mutual recriminations.-

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

Madras
8th November
1873

Lieutenant Colonel
Consg. Engineer for Railways

seen

CARNATIC RAILWAY CO, (LIMITED)
AGENT AND MANAGER'S OFFICE,
Negapatam 27th October 1873.

No. 1490

From

WILLIAM S BETTS ESQRE.
AGENT AND MANAGER, CARNATIC RAILWAY Co,
Negapatam ~~Madras~~.

To

LT. COLONEL J. H. M. SHAW STEWART R. E.
CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR RAILWAY,
Madras

Sir.

Your letter No. 291. of the 13th inst. Mot having received charge of this Company's Agency until the latter part of last month I am unable to state from my own knowledge what caused the delay in plating operations on Construction account during the quarter ending the 30 June last.

I have communicated with the Fisher who is now absent on furlough on the subject. His Engineering Department, on the return to the Fisher writes "that without returns to the Fisher writes "official returns as to the cause of the "unsatisfactory explanation of the "slow progress made in the Construction of the "land during the quarter ended June 30th 1873. as "could be desired. I quite concur however in the "opinion of the Consulting Engineer that more "progress might and ought to have been made "in the prosecution of materials as well as in "the preparation of materials as well as in

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P. W. 1873 Depart.
Original for Ltr
No. 6145.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

1873.

From

The Consulting Engineer
for Railways,

To

The Secretary to Government,
P. W. Department,
Fort Saint George.

Dated 8 Nov. 1873.
Recd. 11

Ltr. I. No. 574.

Commencing on the want of progress displayed in the Construction of the Carnatic Railway for the quarter ended the 30 June 1873
No. 3051-18 Dec 73.

No 317.
Ans 18 Nov 73
Despatch Coonoor 12-11-73.

some other respects.

"My efforts to secure a more energetic
"attention to duty in the Engineering Department
"were so utterly disregarded, and the condition
"of the Engineering staff having become so
"demoralised, I felt it my duty so long ago as
"April last to take action with a view to remedial
"measures being effected, which action resulted
"as you are aware in the discontinuance of the
"late Chief Engineer's services from the 16 "Sept. last."

Mr. Logan is also absent from head quarters, and when he penned the following remarks, he was unable to refer to the records of the office. I will let you know hereafter the result of his search thro' the correspondence of the Engineering Department.

I cannot throw any light on the new progress during the Quarter referred to (ending 30th June last) beyond stating that Mr. Dibbles the late Chief Engineer told me on more than one occasion when I questioned him as to his progress, that his assistants were busy pestering out the line & locksplitting the land required. He said most of the pegs originally put in had been stolen or eaten by white ants. Latterly he told me that Mr. Fisher would not let him engage staff. Inspectors & others of subordinate grades, so that he was unable to get a start to the Collection of Materials, the Engineer being

From
The Agent and Manager,
CARNATIC RAILWAY COMPANY, (LIMITED)
MADRAS.
To
The Consulting Engineer
for Railways.
No.
Dated
Rec'd.

"being all busy staking out the Shiepitting.
"I regret to have to report that a similar
"state of affairs existed during the quarter
"ended 30th Sept. last. I will cause a search
"to be made in Mr. Gibbles letter books to
"see if there is any correspondence on the subs-
"ject, meantime I will write away from head
"quarters & the books referred to. No land was
"made over to the Company during the Quarter
"under reference, or in the one succeeding it."

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt. Servant.
William Butt
Agent & Manager.

3051 P.W. Dept.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the November 1873.
Read the following.

From the Consg Engineer
for Railways.

(Here enter No 3947-78. Nov 1873)

His Excellency
the Governor in Council
regrets to find that mis-
understanding between
the principal Railway
Officials has been allowed
to materially influence
the progress of work on
the Carnatic extension,
but as the management
has

had since passed into other hands, whence energetic action may be expected, His Excellency in Council is not disposed to pursue the matter further.

(4)

A copy of these papers will be forwarded for the information of the Government of India.

H.E. No 1 of 3052

To The Consg Engineer for Railways &c

Copy of the above forwarded to the Government of India with reference to their letter No 1592 G.R. dated 11th September 1873.

Despatched 24/12/73

Despatched 24/12/73

GWW

20/2

H: 317-19

Cir 18 Dec 73
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Ch 6145

Govt. of Madras. (1873)

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Consulting Engr for Railways and To the Secretary to the Govt of India

Dated

Read. Encl.

G. O. 18th Dec. No. 3057.

-3052-

Nos. 317 - 318 - & 319

Carnatic Railway Papers

Orders on letter from the Engr: Engr. Reporting on the slow progress made in the construction of the line to Cuddalore.

Forward copy of letter from the Engr Reporting on the slow progress made in the construction of the Railway to Cuddalore.