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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Publications DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	625	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.-
Dated	10-3	1954

Not to be folded or roughly handled

18

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th March 1874.*

No. 210. Read the following letter from Captain J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Neilgherries, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 2nd March 1874, No. 68:—

I HAVE the honour to address you with reference to paragraph 3 of Public Works Department G. O., No. 380, of the 16th ultimo.

2. It deals with two estimates submitted by me.

3. First, an estimate amounting to Rupees 430, being the actual cost incurred in constructing a cask-bridge after deducting one-third (viz., Rupees 106,) of the value of the casks, supposing them to be eventually sold. This reduced amount, it is stated in the order, "appears capable of" (further) "reduction to one-half at least by utilization of the bridge materials when broken up for other purposes."

4. A careful inspection of the estimate will, I trust, show Government that it cannot be reduced in this arbitrary manner.

5. The estimate is composed of seven items, of which two (amounting to Rupees 90-3-0) are for carriage of materials and for labour, and it will be readily admitted are irrecoverable. Of the other five items, one (amounting to Rupees 48) is for Australian sapling poles bought at Rupees 3 per pole, and for which I could not now obtain anything as they have been in water composed of sewage, etc., and have split with the alternate drying and wetting to which they have been subjected. Another item (amounting to Rupees 22) is for coir rope which was cut up into pieces to tie the bridge together, and is obviously now useless for any other purpose. A third item (amounting to Rupees 2-4-6) is for nails which after once being driven in obviously cannot be redrawn without breaking off the heads, etc. A fourth item (amounting to Rupees 106-14-0) is for 100 planks, including their carriage to the lake. These planks were bought some six or eight years ago for the Lawrence Asylums by my predecessor at Rupees 2-12-0 per plank. They now stand against the Lawrence Asylum stock at Rupee one per plank. They are very much decayed, and after being steeped in the filthy waters of the lake are unpurchasable. The fifth and last item (amounting to Rupees 266-10-6) is for casks. If these casks are at once sold I can realize Rupees 2½ for them. But if the sluice at the end of the lake be closed shortly they will be again needed. I have made use of them and of the other materials of the bridge in forming numerous smaller bridges across the half liquid swamps into which the prisoners are frequently plunged up to their waists. I trust with the above explanation Government will be pleased to admit that the only recoverable item is that of the casks.

6. I therefore beg on this point to submit two estimates, one, amounting to Rupees 536, for this cask-bridge, on the supposition that it will be needed again next year. The other, amounting to Rupees 403-8-0, on the supposition that the casks are at once sold, on which point I solicit early orders.

7. With regard to the second estimate, Government are pleased to say that "great reductions are also feasible." On this point I beg to submit the following explanation. Soon after I submitted the estimate to you, you will remember my verbally explaining to you that if the prisoners were to be employed only on

Proceedings of the Madras Government. Public Works Department.
10th March 1874.

earthwork (on which point at that time I had no information) the items for gun-powder, fuze, pointing jumpers, etc., might be struck out. Had the estimate been returned to me, as is customary, for revision, I could readily have submitted another of a smaller amount before the matter was laid before Government. I have now the honour to submit such an estimate, amounting to Rupees 602. Its first two items are *bona fide* and have been actually incurred. The amount for baskets is less than it was for the same work in 1868-69 and 1869-70 when the prisoners were under my predecessor. He then expended Rupees 24-4-0 and Rupees 127-14-0 in those years, respectively, making an average of Rupees 76-1-0, and the half liquid, slushy mud in which the prisoners now work of course increases the wear on the baskets.

8. I also find that my predecessor expended the following sums:—

	1868-69			1869-70		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Tools, repair ..	170	15	0	409	6	0
Jumpers, sharpening ..				104	2	8

No gun-powder or fuze were ever then charged for. They are now expensive items of any work where needed. They are of course excluded from the present estimate.

9. I trust with these facts before them Government will be pleased to pass and provide funds for the estimate which I now submit, and which amounts to Rupees 602. The whole of this amount has either been incurred, or is in the way of being incurred.

10. The charges already incurred for carrying water to the jail, amounting to Rupees 592-12-0, will be credited to the Jail Department in accordance with the orders contained in paragraph 1 of the above quoted Government Order.

11. Apologizing for being thus obliged to trouble you.

No. 211.

ORDER THEREON, 10th March 1874, No. 625.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 22.

UNDER the explanations given in this letter His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the

full amount of the estimate of Rupees 536 for the cask-bridges, and an allotment of Rupees 70 a month for incidental expenses connected with the convict gangs employed on the Lake reclamation at Ootacamund.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Neilgherries.

„ Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts,

„ Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

Ootacamund
District Engineers Office
2^d March 1874
From The District Engineer
Neilgherries
To The Chief Engineer
Secretary to Government
D. P. W.
Madras.
Sir
I have the honor to address you
with reference to para 3 of P.W.D. G.O.
No 380 of the 15th Instant.
2. It deals with 2 estimates
submitted by me.
3. 1st an estimate amounting to
Rs 430 being the actual cost incurred
in constructing a cask bridge after
deducting 5th (viz Rs 106) of the value
of the casks supposing them to be
eventually sold. This reduced amount
it is stated in the order "Appears capable
of (further) reduction to one half
at least by utilization of the bridge
materials when broken up for other
purposes".
4. A careful inspection of the
estimate will I trust show Government
that it cannot be reduced in this
arbitrary

arbitrary manner.

5. The estimate is composed of 7 items, of which two (amounting to \$90-3-0) are for carriage of materials & for labor, and it will be readily admitted are irrecoverable. Of the other 5 items - one (amounting to \$48) is for Australian saplin poles bought at \$3 per pole & for which I could not now obtain anything as they have been in water composed of sewage & ice & have split with the alternate drying & wetting to which they have been subjected. Another item (amounting to \$22-0-0) is for coir rope which was cut up into pieces to tie the bridge together and is obviously now useless for any other purpose. A third item (amounting to \$2-4-6) is for nails which after once being driven in obviously cannot be redrawn without breaking off the heads &c. A fourth item (amounting to \$100-14-0) is for 100 planks including their carriage to the Lake. These planks were bought some 6 or 8 years ago for the Lawrence Asylums by my predecessor at \$2-12-0 per plank. They now stand against the L.A. Stock at \$1 per plank

plank. They are very much decayed & after being steeped in the filthy waters of the Lake are unpurifiable. The 5th & last item (amounting to \$266-10-6) is for casks. If these casks are at once sold I can realize \$2½ for them. But if the sluice at the end of the Lake be closed shortly they will be again needed. I have made use of them & of the other materials of the bridge in forming numerous smaller bridges across the half liquid swamps into which the prisoners are frequently plunged up to their waists. I trust with the above explanation Government will be pleased to admit that the only recoverable item is that of the casks.

6. I therefore began this point to submit two estimates, one amounting to \$536 for the cask bridge on the supposition that it will be needed again next year, the other amounting to \$403-8-0 on the supposition that the casks are at once sold, on which point I solicit early orders.

7. With regard to the second Estimate Government are pleased to say that "great reductions are also feasible". On this point I beg to submit the following explanation, soon after I submitted the estimate to

a to you you will remember that verbally
 5. explaining to you that if the prisoners
 & were to be employed only for
 to earthwork (on which point it that
 in fact I had no information) the estimate
 for gunpowder, fuzes, pointing jumpers
 & fuzes might be struck out. Had the
 estimate been returned to me as is
 & customary for revision I could
 & readily have submitted another of a
 & smaller amount before the matter
 was laid before Government. I have
 & now the honor to submit such an
 & estimate amounting to Rs 602. Its
 & first two items are bona fide & have
 & been actually incurred. The amount
 & for baskets is less than it was
 & for the same work in 1868-69 & 1869-70
 & when the prisoners were under my
 & predecessors. We then expended Rs 244-
 & 4/12-14- in those years respectively
 & making an average of Rs 76-1- and the half
 & liquid slushy mud in which the
 & prisoners now work of course increases
 & the wear on the baskets.

I also find that my predecessor
 & expended the following sums
 as
 Tools Repair 1868-69 1869-70
 & jumpers sharpening 170-15- 409-6-

No gunpowder or fuzes were ever then
 charged for. They are now expenses
 items of any work where needed. They
 are of course excluded from the present
 estimate.

I trust with these facts
 9. before them Government will be pleased
 to pass & provide funds for the estimate
 which I now submit & which amounts
 to Rs 602-... The whole of this amount
 has either been incurred or is in the
 way of being incurred.

10. The charges already incurred
 for carrying water to the jail amounting
 to Rs 592-12- will be credited to the
 Jail Department in accordance with
 the orders contained in para 1 of the
 above quoted L. O.

Apologising for being thus
 obliged to trouble you.

I have the honor to be
 Sir
 your most obedt. servt

See Morant. Captain
 District Engineer

that cost of constructing a Cast Bridge
Reclamation of the Lake at Oshkosh

始知

Empty Casks @ 52.-6 Each	266106.
Carts carrying above @ 1-6-- 100.	194.
Australian poles with Carriage	48..
Labour and Constructing	70137.
Skinner's Air Rope	22..
Nails	246.
Stanks with Carriage	10674.

Total Paper 536.

H. Engrs Office
 Sacramento
 February 1874

Robert M. Brown
District Engineer

Mr. J. W. Brown

Do 625-10144/24

Dec. 1874 Departs
Chicago for N. W. at 10

$$\frac{1068}{2} = 534$$

the District of Columbia

[illegible]

Bill
Murray

Date 2nd March 1894
 Minutes 4th 5th 6th

Edwards
Edwards

with certain specimens

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures]

Work—Cost of maintaining the Couriers
on the Reclamations of Ostacumund—
during the latter part of the year 1873-74.

Number	Particulars	Rate Per	Amount	Total
1	Pay of, Convict Superintendent 50. . .	Month	450. . .	
1	Warden for 7 months — 10 ..	Wks	70. . .	
	Baskets for Cartwork — 6 ..	Wks	54. . .	
				57 1/2. . .
	Contingencies such as Sharpening tools, repairing Wheel			
	Barrows at 5 per Cent —			28. . .
	Total Estimate No 602.			

District Engineer's Office
 Oshkosh
 February 8/75

Jack Morant.
 — Capt. R.E.
 District Engineer

Actual Cost of Constructing a Cask Bridge
 on Reclamation of the Lake at Ostacumunel,
 deducting value of Casks if sold at once.

Number		
53	Empty Casks @ 52.- 6 Each	26606
14	Carts Carrying above @ 1-6- 102	1941
16	Australian Spokes with Carriage	48..
	Labour Constructing	70152
	Skinner's Carriage	22..
176	Nails	246
100	Blankets with Carriage	10644

Total Repairs 538..

Deduct probable value of Casks when
 resold at 2/8 per cask if sold at once 1328.

Balance 4058

Walter Emile Office
 Ostacumunel
 February 1874

John Morant
 Captain R.E.
 District Engineer

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures on the left page, including "Dinner", "Lunch", and "Supper" entries.]

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[Faint handwritten text at the bottom of the left page]

[Faint handwritten text at the bottom of the left page]

P. W. D.

25

Proceedings of the Madras Government,
Under date the 187 .

Read the following:—

District Engineer } H. E. Sec 65 of 2nd March 1874
Kudalore

M
1/3

Under the sanction
- actions given in this
letter His Excellency
the Governor in Council
is pleased to sanction
the full amount of the
estimate of Rs 536
for the cash bridge
and an allotment of
Rs 40 as monthly
incidental expenses
connected with the

convict gangs employed
on the La Recla.
- mation at Istacamaru.

GMM

Nothing

210-211.

no-8-deps only to D^r Sup. Kildgheir 10/3/71
S. C. Dept. to Kildgheir 30/3/71
Controller
Judicial Dept
Kosh. with d. C. 30/3/71.

12751
Govt. of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Dist. Engineer
Nizhams.

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 3.

G. O. 10th Decr. No.

625

Nos. 210-211.

Lake Reclamation - Botacanna
for Cash Budget

Estimate of Rs. 536.7
an allotment of Rs. 70.
a month for incidental
expenses connected with
the convict-gangs em-
ployed on the work
sanctioned —