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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works. DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th March 1874.*

No. 511. Read the following letter from Lieut.-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Oosilumpetty, 16th January 1874, No. 4,255:—

HAVING inspected the new Goodaloor Ghaut on the 10th to 12th instant, I have the honour to submit the following remarks for the information of Government.

2. The ghaut will be fully completed by the end of this month, with the exception of No. 4 Bridge (25 feet span) on the 2nd mile from the Tavalum, and that bridge will be finished during the following month.

3. Lieutenant Greer, R.E., is to change his camp to the foot of the ghaut about the 20th instant, when the water in the river will be low enough to enable him to commence the foundations of the 70 feet bridge over the Vyravanar.

4. Great difficulty is experienced in obtaining the necessary timber for this bridge, and it is extremely problematical therefore that the wood-work will be fully completed during the current year.

5. All the teak trees close to the ghaut have been used by Lieutenant Greer for the other bridges, and although application was made by that officer about four months ago to the Travancore authorities for information as to the price at which the timber required by him would be supplied by the Travancore Circar, no intimation in reply has been received up to date.

6. As regards the road from the foot of the ghaut to Goodaloor, the earth-work for the whole length of the road will be completed by the end of the official year and most of the metalling collected; and the first $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the foot of the ghaut will be fully completed.

7. I have no hesitation in reporting that the Government have every reason to be satisfied with the very satisfactory manner in which the ghaut work has been executed by Lieutenant Greer, R.E. There can be no question but that in any country it would be considered a remarkably fine piece of work; and taking into consideration that the whole work has been done by daily labour, and without the assistance of a single skilled Foreman or Overseer, it is a proof of the skill and systematic management evinced by Lieutenant Greer in the successful conduct of the work within the limits of the estimate.

8. The only *contretemps* that have occurred have been the landslips, occasioned by the slopes to the side cutting having been omitted, according to Lieutenant-Colonel Farewell's recommendation. In my opinion, and I trust that I shall be allowed the remark, the total elimination from the estimate of the item for these slopes was a mistake. It is true that the soil met with on the hill side is, in great part, firm and stable, and will, under such circumstances, stand perpendicular for a moderate height; yet a great portion is very far from being of this description, and not only this but the firm portions are covered with a peaty earth from two to three feet thick, and it is impossible to expect that high banks coated with such earth will stand perpendicular. The absence of these side slopes will, I feel satisfied, be the cause of grave inconvenience to the traffic hereafter in the landslips that must be expected after every heavy downpour of rain.



District Engineers Office
Camp. Poshimputtur 16 January 1874
Despd. 16-1874

From

Lieut. Col. R. A. Roberts R.E.
District Engineer, Madras

To

Col. J. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government M.M.

Sir,

Having inspected the new
Goodaloor Ghaut on the 10th to 12th
instants, I have the honor to
submit the following remarks
for the information of Government.

2. The Ghaut will be fully
completed by the end of this
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Bridge (25 feet span) on the 2^d
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4. Great difficulty is experienced in obtaining the necessary timber for this bridge, and it is extremely problematical therefore that the wood work will be fully completed during the current year.

5. All the teak trees close to the Ghaut have been used by Lt. Greer for the other bridges, and although application was made by that Officer, about 4 months ago, to the Travancore authorities for information as to the price at which the timber required by him would be supplied by the Travancore Circar, no intimation in reply has been received up to date.

6. As regards the Road from the foot of the Ghaut, to Zoodaloor, the earth work for the whole length of the road will be completed by

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7. I have no hesitation in reporting that the Government have every reason to be satisfied with the very satisfactory manner in which the Ghaut work has been executed by Lieut. Greer R.E. There can be no question but that in any country it would be considered a remarkably fine piece of work, and taking into consideration that the whole work has been done by daily labor, and without the assistance of a single skilled foreman or Overseer, it is a proof of the skill and systematic management evinced by Lt. Greer in the successful conduct of the work within the limits of the Estimate.

8. The only contrivances that have occurred have been the land-slips, occasioned

proof too of
our system
of employing
elephants
to pick up
pieces!

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I shall be allowed the remark,
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to expect that high banks coated
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dicular. The absence of these side-
slopes will, I feel satisfied, be the
cause of grave inconvenience to
the traffic hereafter, in the land-
slips that must be expected after
every heavy down-pour of rain.

99. I take the opportunity to
request that the necessary steps
may be taken to arrange for
fixing definitively the Boundary
of the Travancore Bazar at the
Top of the Ghaut. St. Greer and
Mr. Jacob, the Asst. Chief Engineer
of the Travancore Government, cannot
come to an agreement on this point.
The cause of divergence of opinion
is that the natural features of
the water-shed in the vicinity
have been considerably changed, by
the fact of the Goodaloor people,
having, in ancient times, constructed
a channel to divert the drainage
water from the Travancore side
into their limits.

10. St. Greer considers that the
natural water-shed, before this
channel was excavated, was at
the spot of the present rock-saddle, and
I cannot but concur with him on
this point. As Mr. Jacob, however,
hesitates to accept this spot as the
boundary

boundary, it is very desirable that the question should be definitively settled.

11. I also take the opportunity to bring to notice that no instructions have yet been received regarding the Travellers' Bungalow, recommended by the Collector to be constructed at burnburn, and referred to in your Memo, No. 347, dated 9th September 1873. I understand that the Travancore Planters would rather prefer Goodaloor as the site for the Bungalow, on account of its convenient distance from the foot of the Ghaut. But as Goodaloor is a feverish place, it seems preferable to build the Bungalow at burnburn, as recommended by Mr. McDunn.

12. In conclusion, I think it only right to point out that whereas the Resident of Travancore has, in his letters printed with G. O. 6th March 1872, No. 82 in the Political Department, and G. O. 31st January 1872, No. 199, in the Revenue Department, put considerable pressure upon the Madras Government

to

to open out a cart Ghaut up to Goodaloor at the head of the burnburn valley, as a part of a grand line of communication between the East and West Coast, that the road that is now being made by the Travancore Government, as a part of this grand line of communication, is a simply a winding track, 14 feet wide, cut through the jungle, without, as I understand, masonry works, or a scrap of metal thereon.

13. During the South West Monsoon, such a road constructed in such a locality will be little better than a bog, for its entire length. And I think it my duty to make the Government aware of this fact, considering the great expenses they have incurred in constructing a first class Ghaut and Road from the Travancore Boundary to Goodaloor and burnburn.

14. With the Railway constructed through the Madras District to Tuticorin

Pulicorum, the natural outlet for the produce of the Travancore Hills (in the vicinity of Goodaloor) is by the Gumbum valley to that Port; but it is feared that with such a Road as that constructing by the Travancore Government, the minimum amount of facility will be offered to the traffic in question.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servt

Wm. A. Roberts Lieut. Col. R.
District Engineer, Madras

Recd. 29 Aug 74
No. 22 Aug 74 03.29

No. 571.

Reports regarding
the progress made
on the Goodaloor
branch road.

No. 952. 18.3.74.

Date 16 January 1874
Received 20 - 21

The Secretary to
the Government of India

to
The District Engineer
Madras

From (57) No. 42555
No. 348

P. M. 1874 Robert

13 - 348 P. M. D. Civil
750
Pro. of the Madras Govt.
Read the following
From the D. Eng. Madras (H. E. No. 42555 of 18 Jan 74)

J. D. S.

His Excellency the
Governor in Council has
received with much satis-
faction this report of the
good progress made with
the work of opening up the
new Goodaloor Ghaut, and
road from its foot; which
reflects great credit on
Lieutenant Greer R. E.
to whose energy, skill, and
good management Lieut.
Colonel

Colonel Roberts rightly attri-
butes its good and speedy
execution within the Estimate.

That young Officer, within
5 years of departmental
service, has had the good
fortune
to identify his name,
first with the great Tarrytown,
Irrigation Project, which
even if ^{not} carried out will
never be considered a project
of great professional interest;
and secondly, with this
fine Grant, which forms
a chief link of an im-
portant line of commu-
nication between the West
Coast and the interior.
He will now be transferred
to another field of operations,
on

I don't mind the
work - I think we
may omit this - we
have done well &
this is to be remembered
I don't

This is a scarce coincidence with
Roberts' description of the
Irrigation portion of the
Grant. The fact is it is not
likely to be more than
a link in the chain of
communication between the
coast and the interior. It will
be further south - and
does not climb over a range
of mountains like these

on which the Government allu-
- have occasion for his
i completed ^{2d} Greer will hold services; and have reasons
himself in readiness to believe that his Engi-
- nefs to proceed - meeting abilities and
to the Godavery, powers of organization
where it is anticipated that will make him a fit
his services may successor to Mr. G. J.
be required.

Not before 8 PM at
this moment

St. Greer will now
proceed to the Godavery
(between the hills) where

He is now
at the

Watch the able Engineer
of the Godavery Western
Detachment, whose health
compels him to take leave
for a time. He will
return as an Executive
Engineer of the 4th grade
from date of his assum-
- ing charge from Mr.
Watch, if he should
not previously have
attained that rank in
the

the usual course.

The District En-
gineers' letter will be
communicated to the
Resident in Travancore,
in order that the attention
of the Travancore Govern-
ment may be specially
drawn to the subjects of
its 5th 9th 10th and 12th to 14th
paragraphs. That of the
Revenue Board will be
drawn in the Revenue
Department to the subjects
of paragraph 11^x which
appears to have been
paid before then by the
Collector in August last,
and not to have been dis-
posed of.

The

It is more important
that the road all
over is a 12 ft. road all
but will be needed to 12 ft.
width for 2 years to come - but
in many places the road is
so narrow that it is almost
impossible to pass.

And say -
with a view of further report
as to the sources from which
such accommodation may
be provided - It is not a pro-
per charge against the
popular rates of the Dist.
In the mean time no
expenditure will be
incurred

The Landships allu-
ed to in the 8th paragraph
of the District Engineer's
letter are such as must
always be expected on a
new Ghaut. ^{The cost of} Their
removal should be ^{defrayed} provided
from the ~~for by a~~ maintenance
allowance for which
no doubt application
provision has
already been made
in the ^{Principal} Local Funds
Board Budget of
1874-75 ^{Grants}

[Signature]

Also omit It commits us
to what will require discussion
with reference to the Saddle local
fund on this
Imperial work

Supp. Engr. for Port of Cochin ✓
H. Engr. headman ✓
or Cochin ✓
Resident in Travancore ✓
20th Dept ✓
Despatched - C 20/3/74

3481



Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Supy. Engineer for
Public Works

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

182

G. O. B. March 874, No. 450.

No. 511-512

Gooda loor Ghaut.

Works

Passing orders
on the subject of the
progress of, and the
energy and skill of
Lieutenant Greer,
R E —

MS