

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1046	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	15-4-	1875-195-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 388. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 29th March 1875, No. 5,372:—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of G. O. of the 18th March 1875, No. 764, and beg to express my regret at finding the Government have been led to suppose I reported on the gorges at the Goodaloor ghaut head from mere imagination. I would respectfully observe that I am not in the habit of ever submitting to Government reports on such matters from the data or information collected by my subordinates from any fixed or other stations of a district without personally satisfying myself that these are reasonably correct.

2. As regards this Goodaloor ghaut head, I understood from the people employed on the work that Lieutenant Greer had discussed the matter with Lieutenant-Colonel Farewell, but I could find nothing to show why the route had not been adopted. Lieutenant Boddy and I went down this east gorge for 500 feet by the aneroid from the top of the Tavalum Hill till we came across an old native track going through it considerably above the bottom of the gorge; this track we followed through the jungles till we came out on the new ghaut at the 2nd mile from the head; as the gradient of this is 1 in 16 we were then 660 feet below the ghaut head, which is on the west side, and from this level we could see right through the gorge on the east side, which is also the pass used by the wild elephants for coming up these hills. I could find no trace through the hills in this direction, and the people said none had been tried, and I therefore suggested that a trial line should be made, as it appeared to me well worthwhile to do so to avoid the very awkward zigzags we have on this ghaut. It never occurred to me that such a pass as this had not been examined in connection with the Perryaur Project, as I always supposed everything in relation to this matter had been most thoroughly exhausted. I shall be very glad to find I have made a mistake, but I must solicit the Government to excuse my going there at present; the place is very feverish just now, and I am so liable to fever I should in all probability be laid up for weeks if I visited the place before the rains set in.

3. As regards sectioning of the road, this matter will be attended to as ordered. I merely mentioned the scientific and economic grounds on which Telford and others had arranged their works for securing the safety of the vehicles using them, their proper drainage, and for preventing materials being washed off and lost, which are matters independent of the kind of traffic to be provided for.

4. I will arrange to do the best I can with the maintenance allowance as sanctioned. I mentioned that hutting and extra firing had to be provided for out of this, and that the place was excessively out of the way and expensive to live at; but I regret to find that I did not mention that the whole of the ghaut slopes for earthwork have to be provided for out of this as these had been omitted in the original estimate, and from the nature of the soil slips are constantly occurring, and it will cost a good deal more in time and labor to rectify this mistake, and on all these grounds I solicited an increase of Rupees 40 a mile for some time to get the ghaut into proper order. It must also be noted we have a great deal of revetment work to maintain and timber bridges; I am not an experienced ghaut-maker, and it appeared to me that the Execu-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th April 1875.*

tive Engineer had not sufficient means to do all work I saw was absolutely necessary for the ghaut to have done to it from Repair Funds.

5. In conclusion, I beg most respectfully to deprecate the view of this matter which has been laid before the Government. I had not only this ghaut work to attend to, but I had two irrigation projects of long standing to reconnoitre for the Collector, and the new trace of a ghaut through the Pulni Hills, and to meet Colonel Roberts at this station about the Racquet Court; I had only twenty days for all this work, having to march some 200 miles as well to get at it; with the exception of one irrigation scheme which broke down through the neglect of the village authorities to get me a proper guide, the whole of these matters have been attended to and disposed of, and it is now represented to the Government that I act on mere imagination or from want of knowledge of the circumstances of a case; it is an easy way to dispose of any matter in this discourteous manner, but I trust the Government will allow me to say it is hardly likely to promote their interests or that of the people, or to encourage their officers to much exertion if liable to such injurious treatment.

No. 389.

ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1875, No. 1,046.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 24.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.

*District Engineer's Office
No 5372/ Madura 29 March 1875
From*

*Lieut Colonel J. J. Fischer Esq.
District Engineer, Madura*

To

*Colonel G. W. Walker Esq.
Secretary to Government*

Sir,

*I have the honor to
acknowledge receipt of G O of the
18th March 1875 No 764 and beg
to express my regret at finding
the Government have been led
to suppose I reported on the
gorges ^{at} of the Goodaloor ghāt head
from mere imagination. I
would respectfully observe that
I am not in the habit of ever
submitting to Government reports
on such matters from the data*

of information collected by my subordinates from my fixed or other stations of a District without personally satisfying myself that these are reasonably correct.

2. As regards this Goodaloo l'hat head, I understood from the people employed on the work that Vient Green had discussed the matter with Vient Colonel Farewell, but I could find nothing to show why the route had not been adopted. Vient Moddy and I went down this East gorge for 500 feet by the curved from the top of the Taralun hill till we came across an old native track going through it considerably above the bottom

of the gorge this track we followed through the jungles till we came out on the new l'hat at the 2nd mile from the head, as the gradient of this is 1 in 16 we were then 660 feet below the l'hat head, which is on the west side, and from this level we could see right through the gorge on the east side, which is also the pass used by the wild elephants for coming up these hills. I could find no trace through ^{the} hills in this direction and the people said none had been tried and I therefore suggested that a trial line should be made, as it appeared to me well worth while to do so to avoid the very awkward zigzags

we have on this ghāt. It never occurred to me that such a pass as this had not been examined in connection with the Ferryghat project as I always supposed everything in relation to this matter had been most thoroughly exhausted, I shall be very glad to find I have made a mistake but I must solicit the Government to excuse my going there at present the place is very feverish just now and I am so liable to fever I should in all probability be laid up for weeks if I visited the place before the rains set in.

3 As regards securing of the road this matter will be attended to as ordered I merely mentioned the scientific and economic grounds on which

720
Telford and others had arranged their works for securing the safety of the vehicles using them, their proper drainage and for preventing materials being washed off and lost, ^{which is an matter independent of the kind of traffic, like a tunnel for} I will arrange to do the best I can with the main-
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a mile for some time to get
the ghat into proper order. It
must also be noted we have
a great deal of pavement
work to maintain, and timber
bridges; I am not an experienced
ghat-maker and it appeared to
me that the Executive Engineer
had not sufficient means to do
all work I saw was absolutely
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done to it from repair funds.
In conclusion I beg
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Has this been done?

92
the result of this matter which has
been laid before the Government.
I had not only this ghat work
to attend to but I had 2 irrigation
projects of long standing to re-
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the new trace of a ghat through
the Pulney hills, and to meet
Colonel Roberts at this station
about the Racquet Court; I had
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miles as well to get at it, with the
exception of one irrigation scheme
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on mere imagination or from want
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the Government will allow me
to say it is hardly likely to
promote their interests or that
of the people or to encourage their
Officers to much exertion if
liable to such injurious treatment.

I have the honor to be

^{Sr}
Your Most Obedt servant

W. T. Tucker

District Engineer

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2016-July/73-4-296-297.
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The Dist. Sup. Mendenhall
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O. N. 1845-2150
 No 5372
 From No. 2150.
 the District Engineer
 Mendenhall

To
 the Secretary to
 Government
 D.M.
 Dated 29 March/75
 Received 3rd April.

Reports upon
 the Goodhue
 Grant.

G.O. No. 1046. 15-4-75

2150 ✓
Govt. of 1875. Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Brit Engineer

Dated

Madras

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 15 April 1875, No 1041

Nos. 388. 389.

Madalore Shant.

Letter from the St Engr.
Madras, reporting
in connection with
the subject of the
Shant head, re-
corded.