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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1621	Press
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Dated	22-5-195	C875

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd May 1875.*

No 415 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, 25th April 1875,
No 269 —

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of G O , No 1,018, of the 14th instant, and to request you will be good enough to inform me if Major Law is placed under my orders for general duties, or if he is to be only specially employed on the Pulney Hills under special orders conveyed direct to himself, at present I have no establishment available to give him unless it is that of the Pereacolum Sub-division, which will leave Lieutenant Boddy with only the Dindigul Range Establishment for the work of four large taluqs

2 If Major Law is to be available for general duties, I beg to suggest his range should consist of the Pereacolum and Pulney Taluqs, which will then contain the Pulney and Goodaloor Ghauts, and he could have two Imperial Fund Overseers and one Local Fund Overseer, and I would recommend an additional Overseer specially for the Pulney Hills

3 The Dindigul Range should, I consider, comprise the two taluqs of Melur and Dindigul, having an area of 1,600 square miles

4 The Madura Range to comprise the taluqs of Tiroomungalum and Madura, with an area of about 1,100 square miles, and all the town works including the water-supply project now nearly ready

5 The Zemindaries of Ramnad and Shevagungah to remain as a sub-division as at present, and the Paumben works under the special Overseer

6 I have already had a road traced from Davadanaputty, *via* Paulamalay over the saddle to the eastward of Naudkunda, and thence *via* Vilputty towards Baulasamoodrum and Pulney, and have been over a good bit of the ground myself, and propose during the ensuing month, whilst there is little grass on the hills and no violent winds prevailing, to complete the prospecting of the line so as to prepare an estimate. There are no great difficulties on this trace except below Vilputty, where a sudden break in the ground is said to exist, but I believe this difficulty is somewhat exaggerated, and if the road is taken across the valley we shall be able to get through very fairly with an average gradient of 1 in 15

7 From the line of road above indicated it will be easy to trace lines towards Poombarai and Manavanoor, as well as through the Lower Pulneys, and so open the whole of these valuable hill tracts for cultivation, which now are a howling wilderness, almost destitute of population, every cooly having to be brought up from the plains, but the soil is apparently very good, the rainfall at Kodicanal is upwards of 60 inches in the year, and very evenly distributed throughout the seasons, many sites exist for storing water which could hardly have been expected in so rugged a country, presenting such a bold outline towards the plains, but after overcoming 4,000 or 5,000 feet of rise the country in general has a far more level character

8 At Poombarai rice cultivation has been carried on apparently for ages, the whole hill side is stepped up in terraces for 3,000 feet of rise to the very summit, 6,500 feet above sea level, and the water laid on very ingeniously but rudely

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9 The great want of these hills is tree planting, and it is wonderful no more progress has been made with this considering how luxuriantly all the Australian gum-trees appear to grow about Kodicanal with little or no care, but now that an officer has been specially appointed for them, I would beg to suggest an allotment be granted him annually from the Provincial Funds for the express purpose of planting trees, at all events along the lines of roads; the wattle appears to thrive anywhere about the hills above 4,000 feet level, and in a few years would soon cover the surface on which nothing now grows but a rank grass and thorn bushes, and as vegetation always improves the rainfall of a country Rupees 10,000 a year laid out on tree planting on these hills will probably be soon recovered by increased irrigation in the plains below, and I have already reported that most valuable sites exist both near Pulney and Batlagoondoo, where large quantities of water can be stored to extend the wet cultivation of the district very largely, and the enhanced value of the land thus provided with means of cultivation can be judged of from the compensation paid by the Railway Company for lands taken up by them as given below —

For river irrigated lands	Rs 400	per acre
„ tank irrigated lands	„ 180	„
„ good black cotton soil*	„ 12 to 15	„
„ ordinary red sandy soil*	„ 3 to 4	„

No 416

ORDER THEREON, 22nd May 1875, No 1,421

ESTABLISHMENT, No 32

No 994-D of 14th April 1875

that which he quotes, and alluded to in it The only other similar duty on which Major Law can be employed will be in connection with the completion and repair and maintenance of the Goodaloor ghaut, which Major Law will take an opportunity of visiting when his health permits, that he may instruct the Sub-divisional Officer as to the details of the work to be carried out It is hoped that the short expenditure of last year on this work will not again be allowed to recur

2 Major Law will be under the orders of the District Engineer of Madura, but not for general duties at present He has had an opportunity of consulting the Chief Engineer about the general scope of his work, but is left to his own experience and resources to discover the manner in which it can be carried out He is entitled to the establishment of the special officer attached to the Madura District, as laid down in G O, No 770, of 14th March 1873, and modified in G O, No 171, of 21st January 1875 The Sub-divisional Officer will then be entitled only to the usual Sub-divisional Establishment

3 It is unnecessary to follow the District Engineer through all the details of his letter He should address the Collector of the district if he has any proposal to

* The two last are for dry crops only.

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make with reference to the plantation of trees in the Pulneys; the subject is not one ordinarily taken up in the Public Works Department

(True Extract)

Major, R E,

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government

To the District Engineer, Madura

„ Controller of Public Works Accounts

Ed S T Austin.

Spare Copies

No 269 District Engineer's Office
Madura 25 April 1875

From
Lieut Colonel G. F. Walker & Co
District Engineer Madras

To
Colonel G. F. Walker & Co
Secretary to Government

I have the honor to
acknowledge receipt of Ld
No 1018 of the 14 instant and
to request you will be good
enough to inform me if
Major Saw is placed under
my orders for general duties
or if he is to be only specially
employed on the Pulney Hills
under special orders conveyed
direct to himself at present.
I have no establishment
available to give him unless

it is that of the Peneacolon
Sub-Division, which will
leave Vicent Maddy with
only the Dindigul Range
establishment for the work
of four large Talooks.

2. If Mapt Vant is to be
available for general duties
I beg to suggest his Range
should consist of the Peneacolon
and Pulney Talooks which
will then contain the Pulney
and Yodaikott Lyhats and
he could have 2 Imperial
Fund Officers and 1 Local
Fund Officer and I would
recommend an additional
Officer specially for the Pulney
Hills.

3. The Dindigul Range
should I consider comprise
the 2 Talooks of Mbar and

Dindigul having an area
of 1600 square miles.
4. The Madurai Range to
comprise the Talooks of
Sivomungulum and Madurai
with an area of about 1100
square miles and all the
town works including the
Water Supply Project now nearly
ready.

5. The peneacolon of
Kannad and Sheraqunyah
to remain as a Sub-Division
as at present and the Pamban
works under the special Overseer.
6. I have already had
a road traced from Deva
danapatty via Pamban
over the saddle to the eastward
of Nandkunda and thence
via Velpatty towards Baula
Samudrum and Pulney.

and have been over a good
bit of the ground myself
and propose during the ensuing
month whilst there is little grass
on the hills and no violent
winds prevailing to complete
the prospecting of the line so
as to prepare an estimate -
there are no great difficulties
on this trace except below Vilpatty
where a sudden break in
the ground is said to exist
but I believe this difficulty
is somewhat exaggerated and
if the road is taken across the
valley we shall be able to
get through very fairly with
an average gradient of 1 in 15
From the line of road
above indicated it will be
easy to trace lines towards
Pomburai and Manavaroor.

3
as well as through the Vowels
Trilneys and so open the whole
of these valuable hill tracts
for cultivation which now are
a howling wilderness almost
destitute of population every-
where having to be brought
up from the plains but the
soil is apparently very good
the rainfall at Kodikanal
is upwards of 60 inches in
the year and very evenly
distributed throughout the
seasons many sites exist for
storing water which could
hardly have been expected
in so rugged a country
presenting such a bold outline
towards the plains but after
overcoming 4 or 5000 feet of rise
the country in general has
a far more level character
8 At Pomburai see

cultivation has been carried on
apparently for ages, the whole hill
side is stepped up in terraces
for 3000 feet of rise to the very
summit, and the water laid on
very ingeniously but rudely.
The great want of these
hills is tree planting, and it
is wonderful no more progress
has been made with this considering
how luxuriantly all the Australian
gum trees appear to grow about
Sydney with little or no care.
but now that an Officer has been
specially appointed for them
I would beg to suggest an
allotment be granted him
annually from the Provincial
funds for the express purpose of
planting trees at all points
along the lines of roads. The Wattle
appears to thrive anywhere

about the hills about 4000 feet
level and in a few years would
soon cover the surface on which
nothing now grows but a rank
grass and thorn bushes and
as vegetation always improves
the rainfall of a country it is
a great laid out on tree planting
on these hills will probably
be soon recovered by increased
irrigation in the plains below
and I have already reported
that most valuable sites exist
both near Sydney and Balla-
gonder where large quantities
of water can be stored to extend
the wet cultivation of the District
very largely and the enhanced
value of the land thus provided
with means of cultivation can
be judged of from the compensation
paid by the Railway Company

for lands taken up by them as
given below:

- For river irrigated lands. Rs 400 per acre
 - " tank irrigated lands. " 180 "
 - " good black cotton soil " 12 to 15 "
 - " Ordinary red sandy soil " 3 to 4 "
- The two last are for dry crops only

I have the honor to be
Your Most Obedt servant
W. T. Tucker Esq. M. B. E.

District Engineer,
[Faint handwritten text continues, mostly illegible]

And upon a main
tenance of the Operation
of the, which Major
Law will take an
opportunity of visit-
ing when his health
permits, that he may
instruct the District
Divisional Officer as to
the details of the work
to be carried out.
It is hoped that the
short expenditure
of last year in this
work will not prove
he allowed to proceed.

2. Major Law will
be under the control
of the District Engineer,
Gardiner, but not for
general duties at pre-
sent. He has had an
opportunity of con-
sulting the Chief Engi-
neer about the general
scope

scope of his work, but
is left to his own ex-
perience and resources
to discover the manner
in which it can be
carried out. He is
subordinated to the Sub-
Divisional Officer of the Special
Office attached to the
District Engineer as
last division in O.D. 1873
and
7th March 1873

modified in O.D.
No 171 of 24 Jan 75
But if the District Engineer
The Sub-Divisional
Officer will then
be entitled only
to the named Sub-
Divisional Officer
which at present
is the only one

3. It is necessary
to

2749/
Govt. of 1875 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Dy. Sgr.

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl

G O 22 May 1875, No 1427

Nos. 415-416

Major Law. - Passing
orders on the letter of
the District Engineer
Madura, requesting to
be informed whether
_____ is available
for General Duties or
for Special Duty on the
Public Works.