M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

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(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	539-40	Press	Original
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~	
Dated	25. 2.	~~195~~	1875

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th February 1875.

No. 606. Read the following letter from Colonel H. DRUMMOND, R.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Railway,) to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, (Railway,) dated Fort William, 16th January 1875, No. 138 R:—

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letters, Nos. 3,454-A A and 3,492, dated 8th and 12th December 1874, respectively, reporting damages to the Madras Railway by heavy floods which occurred at the end of October 1874.

2. With reference to the observations of the Madras Government, that the cause of the damage to the Cheyaur bridge is "that in many instances the foundations of piers and abutments have not been sunk to the solid bed of the river," I am to inquire who is responsible for this omission, and to state that this information should be furnished with the further detailed reports promised. These reports should be submitted with the least possible delay, a special Committee being appointed to investigate the matter, if thought desirable by His Excellency the Governor in Council, so that a searching inquiry may be made and a complete account of the circumstances drawn up for the information of the Government of India, and of Her Majesty's Government. Two estimates as closely approximate as possible should accompany the reports, one giving the actual money loss incurred by the destruction of bridges, banks, etc., and the second the probable cost of works considered necessary to restore the communication, making it safe for the future against a similar disaster. With the first estimate, and as an appendix thereto, should be given a statement showing the probable loss in traffic due to the breaks on the Railway.

No. 607. ORDER THEREON, 25th Febr[illegible] 1875, No. 539.

RAILWAY, No. 78.

ORDERED that the Government of India be addressed on the subject of this letter.

(Here enter No. 540, dated 25th February 1875.)

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE, *25th February* 1875.

No. 608.

No. 540.

FROM

COLONEL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Public Works Department.

RAILWAY, No. 79.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowlege the receipt of your letter No. 138 R, dated 16th January 1875, and in reply to state as follows.

2. The defective construction of the Cheyaur bridge has already formed the subject of a lengthened correspondence both with the Government of India and the local Railway Authorities, extending as far back as October 1870, when the structure originally failed. The papers quoted in the margin will recall to the remembrance of the Government of India the circumstances not only of the failure of the bridge but of the measure of responsibility attaching to the Engineers concerned in carrying out the work. The Government of India have also been furnished with explanations as to why the foundations of the piers and abutments were not sunk to the solid bed of the river when the reconstruction of the bridge was being proceeded with in 1871. The papers mentioned below, to which I am to invite attention, contain a full account of the circumstances, and the defects are fully illustrated by the sections of the new bridge which accompanied my letter No. 311, dated 4th February 1875.

G. O., No. 2,048, dated 4th November 1870.
To Govt. of India, No. 2,765, dated 17th Nov. ,,
G. O., No. 1,743, dated 30th June 1871.
From Govt. of India, No. 1,098, 29th June 1871.
To ,, No. 1,965, dated 26th July 1871.
From ,, ,, 1,928, ,, 4th Oct. ,,
To ,, ,, 2,661, ,, 20th ,, ,,
,, ,, ,, 2,807, ,, 6th Nov. ,,
,, ,, ,, 3,072, ,, 5th Dec. ,,
From ,, ,, 2,447 R. ,, 6th ,, ,,
,, ,, ,, 2,597, ,, 19th ,, ,,
,, ,, ,, 2,482, ,, 8th ,, ,,
To ,, ,, 347, ,, 5th Feb. 1872.

To Government of India, No. 425, dated 20th February 1874.
From ,, ,, ,, 512 G. R., ,, 7th March ,,
To ,, ,, ,, 924, ,, 8th April ,,
,, ,, ,, ,, 1,414, ,, 28th May ,,
,, ,, ,, ,, 1,595, ,, 16th June ,,
From ,, ,, ,, 1,554 R, ,, 9th July ,,
To ,, ,, ,, 2,467, ,, 1st September ,,
,, ,, ,, ,, 3,063, ,, 27th October ,,

With the information now given before them it is thought that the Government of India will not wish to receive the further special report in regard to the Cheyaur bridge, called for in paragraph 2 of the letter under reply.

3. The detailed report of damages to railway works generally by the recent floods has been furnished with my No. 396, dated 12th February 1875, and a copy has been supplied direct to the Secretary of State. This report contains an approximate valuation of the damage done to works and loss due to interruption of traffic, and explains that an accurate estimate of the remedial works necessary to secure the line against similar disaster in the future cannot be framed till the settlement of the question of waterways of large bridges, to discuss which, with Sir John Hawkshaw, the Consulting Engineer in London, the Chief Engineer of the Company has proceeded* home. Under the arrangements made for such consultation, His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that it would be premature to appoint a special committee of investigation and will await further intimation of the wishes of the Government of India.

* *Vide* No. 3,455-A, dated 8th December 1874.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

P. W. 1875 Sept.
Pros: 25th February
No. 472.

From.

The Government of Madras.

Dated 18th January/75.
Recd 25th

No. 138 R.

Copying orders on the report of damages by floods to the Madras Railway & suggesting the appointing of a Committee to investigate & report further on the matter -

Mr No: 540 25-2-75.

No 606

25-2-75 R. 9th July 1875

P. W. D.

4

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the 187 .

Read the following :—

Government of India - (H. E. Dis. 138 R. dy 16th Jany 1875.)

Ordered that the Government of India be addressed on the subject of this letter.

H. E. Dis. dated

To The Secy: to the Govt. of India, S.H.D.

Sir

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter Dis. 138 R, dated 16th January 1875, and in reply to state as follows.

The

The defective construction of the Cheyair bridge has already formed the subject of a lengthened correspondence both with the Government of India and the local Railway authorities, extending as far back as October 1870 when the structure originally failed - The papers quoted in the margin will recall to the remembrance of the Govt. of India the circumstances not only of the failure of the bridge but of the measures of responsibility attaching to the Engineers concerned in carrying out the work - The Govt. of India have also been furnished with explanations as to why the

× G. C. No. 2048 dy 4 Nov/70
To Govt. of I. - 2765 - 17 Do -
G. C. " 1763 - 30 June 1871
From Govt. of I. 1078 - 29 - Do -
To Do - 1945 - 26 July -
From Do - 1928 - 4 - Oct. -
To Do - 2661 - 30 - Do -
" Do - 2807 - 6 - Nov. -
" Do - 3072 - 5 - Dec. -
From Do - 2447 R. - 6 - Do -
" Do - 3577 - 19 - Do -
To Do - 2482 - 8 - Do
Do - 347 - 5 - Feby 1873

the foundations of the piers and abutments were not sunk to the solid bed of the river when the reconstruction of the bridge was being proceeded with in 1871 - The papers mentioned below, to which I am to invite attention, contains a full account of the circumstances, and the defects are fully illustrated by the sections of the new bridge which accompanied my letter No. 211 dated 4th Feb. 1875 -

To Govt. of India No. 425 dy 20 Feby 1875 -
From Do " 5136 R. - 7 March -
To Do " 924 " 8 April -
" Do " 1414 " 28 May -
" Do " 1595 " 16 June -
From Do " 1554 R. - 9 July -
To Do " 2467 " 1 Septr -
" Do " 3063 " 27 Oct. -

With

With the information now
given before them it is
thought that the Govt. of
India will not further expect to
receive the special report
in regard to the Cheyair
bridge called for in para
2) of the letter under reply.

The detailed report of
damages to Railway works
generally by the recent
floods has been fur-
-nished with my No. 398
dated 12th February 1878, and
as copy has been supplied
direct to the Secretary of
State. This report con-
-tains an approximate
valuation of the damage
done to works and loss
due to interruption of
traffic, and explains
that

that an accurate estimate
of the remedial works
necessary to secure the
line against similar
disaster in the future
cannot be framed till
the settlement of the
question of waterways
of large bridges, ~~which~~
~~the Chief Engineer of the~~
~~Company has proceeded~~
~~to England~~ which will
have to discuss with
Sir John Hawkshaw
the Consulting Engineer
the Chief Engr. of the Company had proceeded home
in London. Under
the arrangements made
for such consultation,
it does not, in the opinion
of His Excellency the
Governor in Council,

seem

considers that it would be premature
deem expedient to appoint
a special Committee of
investigation and will also act further in accordance with
wishes of the Secy of State.

Dept. 26-2-74.

66: 2.75 (A. 4 - Finlay 1876

472 ✓

Govt. of Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Mr. Secy. to Govt. of India

Dated

Rec'd. 25 Feb. 1876. No. 539 540

Nos. 606-609.

Furnishing information regarding the failure of the Chegaur Bridge and its reconstruction and the damages done to works on the main Railways by floods

Damages. (Madras)

The Govt. of Madras addressed on the subject of the failure of the Chegaur Bridge and the damages done by the late floods.