

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	994 C.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	13-4-195	C8 75

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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in

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th April 1875.*

No. 287E. Read the following letter from Colonel C. V. WILKIESON, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Coimbatore, 8th April 1875, No. 5:—

I HAVE the honor to report that the bridge of nine arches now under construction over the Oopaur river, three miles from Dharapuram, was damaged during a fresh in the river on the morning of the 6th. The bridge was sanctioned in G. O., No. 127, of 29th July 1870, and the revised estimate in G. O., No. 43, of 3rd December 1874.

2. On the morning in question there was a slight fresh in the river of one foot from the rains on the previous evening. Three arches were finished, and the centring removed, the fourth arch had been finished, and the centring lowered a little, the fifth arch had been keyed the day before, and the centring of the sixth arch was partially up. At a little after 7 o'clock a fresh was heard coming down the river, and at 8-30, $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet water was surging through the bridge piers.

3. The supports of the fourth arch were washed away, and centring left supported between the piers, but the arch has sustained no damage, being clear of the centring. The fifth arch, only finished the day before and still supported by centring, fell in on the centring supports giving away, and the centrings of the sixth arch were carried away; nearly all of the two centrings have been picked up down the river, and so the only extra expense that will accrue for the damage will be the cost of rebuilding the fifth arch and the cost of recovering and bringing back the lost centrings. There are two abutment piers, the third and sixth, and the fourth arch is still standing without injury, and I have given necessary instructions for its security.

4. Mr. Nicholson, the Range Officer, was on the spot, as I have given him instructions to remain at the site until the bridge was finished. Very little, if any, materials was lost, as the chunam and bricks are kept on the bank.

5. I have ordered the work to be hastened on to complete the arches, which I hope to see finished by the end of next month. Freshes seldom come in the Oopaur during these dry months; in fact very little water falls in the south-west monsoon. On the evening of the 5th we had a very heavy storm in Coimbatore, when more than two inches of rain fell in one hour.

No. 287F. ORDER THEREON, 13th April 1875, No. 994-C.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 17AA.

His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets that the work of the Oopaur bridge has been so long protracted as to have endangered the arches during construction. Every precaution must now be taken, as the river can no longer be considered safe from freshes at any time. It would have been well to have designed special centrings calculated to reduce the danger from flood to the utmost. The Superintending Engineer does not state the nature of centring actually used. It is presumed that the services of the extra officer appointed to the district have been made available for the work, so that in the absence of the Range Officer European supervision should never be wanting on the spot.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore.
" Financial Department.
Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

the centring removed, the fourth

No 5

Superintending Engrs Office
Coimbatore 8th April 1875

From,

Colonel C. V. Wilkinson R.E.
Superintending Engineer
Coimbatore.

To,

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.D.
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that the bridge of 9 arches now under construction over the Copeas river three miles from Charapuram was damaged during a fresh in the river on the morning of the 6th.

The bridge was sanctioned in G.O. No 127 of 29th July 1870 and the revised estimate in G.O. No 43 of 3^d December 1874.

2. On the morning in question there was a slight fresh in the river of one foot from the rains on the previous evening. Three arches were finished and the centring removed, the fourth

arch had been finished and the centring lowered a little; the 5th Arch had been keyed the day before and the centring of the 6th Arch was partially up. At a little after seven O'clock a fresh was heard coming down the river and at 8.30, $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet water was surging through the bridge piers.

3. The supports of the 4th arch were washed away and centring left supported between the piers but the arch has sustained no damage being clear of the centring. The 5th Arch only finished the day before and still supported by centring fell in on the centring supports giving away; and the centrings of the 6th arch was carried away; nearly all of the two centrings have been picked up down the river and so the only extra expense that

will accrue for the damage -
 will be the cost of rebuilding
 the 5th arch and the cost of
 recovering and bringing back
 the lost centring - There are
 two abutment piers, the third
 and sixth, and the 4th arch is still
 standing without injury and
 I have given necessary instructions
 for its security.

4 Mr. Nicholson, the Range
officer was on the spot as I have,
given him instructions to
remain at the site until the
bridge was finished. Very ^{little}
little, if any, materials was ^{the}
lost as the chumam and bricks ^{no.}
are kept on the bank.

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dry months in fact very little waterfalls in the South-West monsoon. On the evening of the 5th we had a very heavy storm in Coimbatore where more than 2 inches of rain fell in one hour.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your most Obedt Servt

C. W. Wilson, Colonel R.E.
Supg Engineer, Coimbatore

C.W. Wilson

4029-1/2 p. 10. 17 (17/10/1875)
5th April 1875. 31-11-11
- 32 Dec 1875. - 13-11-11

Mr. 1875 W.L.T.
Jany, 1875 2330.
The Supg. Eng. Coimbatore

For the Secretary to Govt
P.W. Depart.
P.W. Depart.

Recd 1875 April 1875

Reports on the damage done to the Popanur bridge, now under construction, during a fresh in the river on the morning of the 5th April 1875.
S.O. 1875 C. 13.4.75

Public Works Depart.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 1875.

Read the following:-

The Supg. Engineer } H.E. No 5 of 8th April 1875.
Coimbatore }
G.O. No. 994C. of 13th April 1875.

His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets that the work of the Popanur Bridge has been so long protracted as to have endangered the arches during construction. Every precaution must now be taken, as the river can no longer be considered safe from freshes at any time. It would have been well to have designed

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calculated to reduce the
danger from flood to the
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so that in the absence
of the Range Officer, Euro-
pean supervision should
never be wanting on the
spot.

G.M.W.

To The Deputy Comm. Lahore
MS-disp-13-4-75

Fin^d Dept^t ✓

P.C. depts to be 22/4/75
10/10

2330 ✓

Govt. of 1875 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
Supt Engineer
Chingleputt

Dated

Recd.

Encl

G. O. Bapin 1875. No. 9942

Nos. 2878. 2879

Coparr Bridge, Coimbatore

Two H. P. Paving orders are
letted from the P. P. P. P. P.
working the damages oc-
casioned to the by
buckas on the 6 April