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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Work DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1393 (W) Press
B.P. No.— Mis.—

Dated 5-6- 187 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 5th June 1876.

No. 73. Read the following letter from J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Nellore, 4th April 1876, No. 5 :—

In reference to G.O., No. 713, dated 18th March 1876, I have the honor to report that Atmakur was fixed upon some time ago as the future head-quarters of the Central Range of this district (not Northern Range as indicated by the G.O. under reference); but, as there is no building available at Atmakur, the Range Office is accommodated in a corner of a verandah in the district stores building at Nellore.

2. An office for this range to be built at Atmakur was sanctioned in G.O., dated the 12th March 1874, No. 666, but for want of funds nothing has been done; the estimate amounts to Rupees 3,510, and include provision for the accommodation of the Taluq Overseer also.

3. I am not sure that Atmakur is the best place that could have been selected for the head-quarters of the range, and I am not satisfied that the present division of the district is the best that could be adopted. I feel, however, that I have not sufficient knowledge of the district yet to give a decided opinion upon this matter, but I am collecting information on the subject, and hope to lay it before Government in as complete a form as possible at an early date.

4. I cannot, for various reasons, recommend the amalgamation at present of the East Coast Canal Range with any of the existing permanent ranges. The construction of the canal has not yet entered the limits of the Central Range, and the officer in charge of that range could not, without neglecting his range works, give the canal anything like the attention it requires. It is equally out of the question, but for different reasons, to attach the canal at present to the Southern Range. The present establishment of this range is quite incapable of carrying out the ordinary works of the range in a satisfactory manner. I shall have to address you more fully on this subject in another report, and in the mean time nothing but the most ordinary duty of this important range can be entrusted to the present range establishment.

5. It was proposed some time ago to amalgamate the two special ranges, that is to say, the Pennair Anicut and the East Coast Canal Ranges; and, so far as the portion of the canal that is completed and in progress is concerned, that is to say, from the Pennair southwards, I think this may now be done with advantage. If this arrangement is sanctioned, I propose to place Lieutenant Henderson, R.E., Assistant Engineer, 2nd Grade, in charge of the new range with a Sub-divisional Officer on the canal.

6. You are of course aware that Lieutenant Cotter, R.E., who is under orders* for Trichinopoly is now in charge of the canal. If the arrangement proposed above is sanctioned, he can be relieved at once of all that portion of the canal south of the Pennair, but it will be difficult to replace him on the work of surveying and estimating for that portion of the canal that is in this district north of the Pennair. There is no competent person in the district available for the duty, and if it is necessary to set Lieutenant Cotter free at once to

* *Vide Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 28th March 1876, page 503.

proceed to Trichinopoly, the work must be stopped until a competent officer is appointed to take it up.

7. In a recent report on the work to be done to complete the surveys and estimates of the canal from the Pennair to the Kistna district, Lieutenant Cotter states that, "knowing the ground as thoroughly as I do, I believe it would be advantageous to place the work under me;" there can be no doubt of this, and if Lieutenant Cotter is removed before the surveys are finished, the time he has spent on the work is so much labor lost. I may mention also that Lieutenant Cotter states positively that the surveys already executed under the orders of the late District Engineer are in some most important respects inaccurate; he submitted an estimate in December last for the section of canal between the Pennair and Chippalairu, distance 18 miles, the estimate was based on the surveys already made, and in sending it up he stated, "I decline to be in the least responsible for the levels." I cannot think of sending such an estimate to Government, and I must simply decline to receive it; I am therefore sending it back to Lieutenant Cotter to be resubmitted when he has no doubt of its accuracy.

8. Under all these circumstances, it is, I think, indispensably necessary in the interests of Government to allow Lieutenant Cotter to remain in this district, until he finishes the work on which he has been so long employed, and I beg to urge upon you the desirability of cancelling his transfer to Trichinopoly. Lieutenant Cotter calculates that it will take three or four months to complete the surveys and estimates, but I think it will take six months. If he is allowed to remain in this district, I shall undertake that the estimates are before Government within this period.

9. In regard to the amount sanctioned for office rent in G.O., 27th March 1873, No. 959, I regret to have to report that it is insufficient, and disproportioned to the accommodation provided. The rent of the house is 107 Rupees a-month, the allowance for the office is 20 Rupees, leaving 87 Rupees to be paid by the District Engineer. I cannot afford to pay so much for house accommodation, and unless Government increase the allowance for office rent in proportion to the accommodation given to the office, and which I calculate at one-third of the whole, I must leave the house we are now occupying. There is one house available at 60 Rupees a-month which will suit me personally, but I can find no place at present suitable for the office; the only house which would answer this purpose is at present occupied as an office by the Head Assistant Collector at a monthly rent of Rupees 40.

10. To summarise what I consider necessary to meet the requirements of the G.O. under reference,—

I.—I think the construction of the proposed office for the Central Range should be deferred until further information is obtained regarding its proper position.

II.—The Pennair Anicut and the East Coast Canal Ranges should be amalgamated.

III.—Lieutenant Cotter's services should be retained in this district for a further period of six months to complete the surveys and estimates of the East Coast Canal from the Pennair to the boundary of the Kistna district.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th June 1876.

IV.—The rent allowance of the District Engineer's Office should be increased to 35 Rupees a-month.

11. The plan of this office is forwarded herewith as directed.

No. 74. ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1876, No. 1,393.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 4-A.

SEPARATE orders have been passed on the subject of the East Coast Canal, the survey and execution of which shall be prosecuted uninterruptedly by the two officers appointed to it, whose attention shall not be distracted from it by any other duties. The District Engineer will understand that the Government recognize only three general duty ranges—the Northern, Central, and Southern—in the last of which the Pennair Anicut is included. It is hoped that Lieutenant Cotter, R.E., was able to send in the survey and estimate of the canal between the Pennair and Chippilairu before he left the district, his transfer to Trichinopoly having been cancelled as requested.

2. The District Engineer will move his office into the building specially erected for the purpose, finding accommodation for the Southern Range Office in the town at a maximum cost of the Rupees 20 hitherto allowed for his own office. The opportunity should be availed of to remove the Central Range Office to some place within the range, a house being rented for the purpose.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,
Offg. Under Secy. to Govt. P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Nellore.
„ Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

No. 5

District Engineer's Office!
Nellore. 6th April 1876.

From,

J. O'Shaughnessy Esquire
District Engineer of
Nellore.

To,

Major-General G.W. Walker, R.E.
Secretary to Government
P.W.D.
Fort St. George.

Sir,

Enclosure 1

In reference to G.O. No 713 dated 18th March 1876. I have the honor to report that Attmakur was fixed upon some time ago as the future head quarters of the Central Range of this District (not Northern Range as indicated by the G.O. under reference) but as there is no building available at Attmakur the Range Office is accommodated in a corner of a Verandah in the

District Stores building at Nellore.

2. An office for this Range to be built at Atmakur, was sanctioned in G.O. dated the 12th March 1874 No. 666, but for want of funds nothing has been done: the Estimate amounts to Rs. 3570, and includes provision for the accommodation of the Salug Overseer also.

3. I am not sure that Atmakur is the best place that could have been selected for the head quarters of the Range, and I am not satisfied, that the present division of the District is the best that could be adopted. I feel however that I have not sufficient knowledge of

the District yet, to give a decided opinion upon this matter, but I am collecting information on the subject, and hope to lay it before Government in as complete a form as possible at an early date.

4. I cannot for various reasons recommend the amalgamation at present of the East Coast Canal Range with any of the existing permanent Ranges. The construction of the Canal has not yet entered the limits of the Central Range, and the Officer in charge of that Range could not, without neglecting his Range works, give the canal anything like the attention it requires. It is equally out of the question but

for different reasons to attach the Canal at present to the Southern Range. The present Establishment of this Range is quite incapable of carrying out the ordinary works of the Range in a satisfactory manner. I shall have to address you more fully on this subject in another report, and in the meantime nothing but the most ordinary duty of this important Range can be entrusted to the present Range Establishment.

5. It was proposed some time ago, to amalgamate the 2 Special Ranges, that is to say, the Pennair Anicut and the East Coast Canal Ranges, and so far as the portion of the Canal that is completed and in progress is concerned,

that is to say from the Pennair Southwards, I think this may now be done with advantage. If this arrangement is sanctioned, I propose to place Lieutenant Henderson R.E. Assistant Engineer 2nd grade in charge of the new Ranger with a Sub Divisional Officer on the Canal.

6. You are of course aware that Lieutenant Cotter R.E. who is under orders for Trichinopally, is now in charge of the Canal. If the arrangement proposed above is sanctioned he can be relieved at once of all that portion of the Canal South of the Pennair, but it will be difficult to replace him on the

× Vide Fort St. George Gazette dated 28th March 1876 Page 503.

work of Surveying and estimating for that portion of the Canal that is in this District North of the Pennaiar. There is no competent person in the District available for the duty and if it is necessary to set Lieutenant Cotter free at once to proceed to Trichinopaly, the work must be stopped until a Competent Officer is appointed to take it up.

7. In a recent report on the work to be done to complete the Surveys and Estimates of the Canal from the Pennaiar to the Kistna District, Lieutenant Cotter states, that "Knowing the ground as thoroughly as I do. I believe it would be advantageous to place the work under me"; there can be no doubt of this, and if Lieutenant Cotter is removed before the Surveys are finished, the time he has spent on the work is so much labor lost, I may mention also that Lieutenant Cotter states positively that the Surveys already executed under the orders of the late District Engineer are in some most important respects inaccurate, he submitted an Estimate in December last for the section of Canal between the Pennaiar and Chippalairoo-distance 18 Miles- the Estimate was based on the Surveys already made, and in sending it up he stated "I decline to be in the least responsible for the levels". I cannot think of sending

such an Estimate to Government and I must simply decline to receive it. I am therefore sending it back to Lieutenant Cotter to be resubmitted when he has no doubt of its accuracy.

8. Under all these circumstances, it is, I think, indispensably necessary in the interests of Government to allow Lieutenant Cotter to remain in this District, until he finishes the work on which he has been so long employed, and I beg to urge upon you, the desirability of cancelling his transfer to Trichinopoly. Lieutenant Cotter calculates that it will take 3 or 4 months to complete the surveys, and Estimates, but I think it will take 6 months. If he is allowed to remain

in this District, I shall undertake that the Estimates are before Government within this period.

9. In regard to the amount sanctioned for Office rent in G.O. 27th March 1873. No. 909. I regret to have to report that it is insufficient, and disproportioned to the accommodation provided.

The rent of the house is 107 Rs. a month, the allowance for the Office is 20 Rs. leaving 87 Rs. to be paid by the District Engineer. I cannot afford to pay so much for house accommodation. and unless Government increase the allowance for Office rent, in proportion to the accommodation given to the Office, and which I calculate at $\frac{1}{3}^{rd}$ of the whole. I

must leave the house we are now occupying. There is one house available at 60 Rs. a month which will suit me personally, but I can find no place at present suitable for the office, the only house which would answer this purpose is at present occupied as an office by the Head Assistant Collector at a monthly rent of Rs 40.

10. To summarise what I consider necessary to meet the requirements of the G.O. under reference,

I. I think the construction of the proposed Office for the Central Range should be deferred, until further information is obtained, regarding its proper position.

II. The Pennair Anicut and the East Coast Canal Ranges should be amalgamated.

III. Lieutenant Cotter's services should be retained in this District for a further period of 6 months to complete the Surveys and Estimates of the East Coast Canal from the Pennair to the boundary of the Kistna District.

IV. The rent allowance of the District Engineer's Office should be increased to 35 Rs. a month.

11 The Plan of this Office is forwarded herewith as directed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
P. Thangavelu
District Engineer.

P.T.C.

f.o. 18 March 76. No 713
12 Mar/74. 666
27 Mar/73. 959

No. 1393 Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 5th June 1876.

READ the following:—

From
D. E. Kellore

No. Dr. 5 dated April 1876

Separate Orders have been passed on the Subject of the East Coast Canal, the Survey and execution of which shall be prosecuted uninterruptedly by the two officers appointed to it, whose attention shall not be distracted from it by any other duties.

The

No. W. 1126 Relpt.
From
The District Engineer
& Kellore
To
The Secretary to Govt.
P.W.D.
Fort St. George.
Dated, 28 April 1876
Subject
Rec'd
Enclosure.

Plan &c. Report on the
Alignment for
Accelerating the
Navigation of
Officers &c— Sir Kellore
Duties.

No 73

Cir - 31-5-76 Dtd 5/6/76
D.L. Shut 28 May

The District Engineer will understand that the Government recognize only 3 general duty Ranges - the Northern, Central and Southern, in the last of which the Pennair Anicut is included. It is hoped that Lieut Cotter R.E. was able to send in the Survey and Estimate of the Canal between the Pennair and Chipplair before he left the District, his transfer to Tuticorin having been cancelled as requested.

2. The District Engineer will move his office into the building specially erected for the purpose; finding accommodation for the Southern Range Office in the Town at a Maximum cost of Rs. 20 hitherto allowed for his Town Office - the opportunity should be availed

availed of to remove
the Central Range Office
to some place within
the Range, a house
being rented for the
purpose_

No 73-74

D. E. Sellers
Ex P. W. a/c

2525

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The D. C. Sellon

Dated

Issued

Read Encl.

G. O., 5th June 1876, No. 1393

No. 73-74.

Amalgamation of certain Ranges in the Nellore

Dist. Passing orders on letter from the Dist Engineer

thereon.

Read in the G.O. 17-6-76