

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	659	(w)	Press
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	14 3		1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 194. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 26th February 1876, No. 4,389 :—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G.O., of the 12th February 1876, No. 389, and beg very respectfully to refer the Government to my letters of the 16th and the 23rd of February 1876, Nos. 4,231 and 4,341, respectively, which will, I trust, explain how impossible it is for me to allow Mr. Davidson or Lieutenant Boddy to be at Kodikanel without sacrificing the progress of all the works of the taluqs of which they have charge.

2. The art of ghaut tracing is after all a very simple matter, and in any economical point of view, in a country like India, one of very little or no importance; in fact, this trace of some 30 miles in length to the Pulney Hills is not likely to open out five square miles of good land for cultivation or about 3,000 acres, and the cost will not be less than three lakhs in all probability, or at the rate of Rupees 100 an acre; whereas, on the Godavery works, the irrigation and navigation of 600,000 acres of land has not yet cost Rupees 20 an acre, and the revenue of the district has been nearly trebled.

3. Again, on a gradient of 1 in 20 a horse can only do half as much work as on a level road, but as bullock-power is only equal to two-thirds of a horse-power, on the slope ordered for this ghaut, viz., 1 in 19, the bullocks will be able to do only about one-third or one-fourth the work they can do on the plains, so that one of the fundamental elements of rent, the cheapening the cost of transport of all new products from land to the lowest possible sum, cannot by any means be so certainly obtained by ghaut-roads as by good ordinary, plain country-roads; the cost of repairs and maintenance is much greater, and, as before stated, in every economical point of view works of this kind cannot by any possibility benefit the ordinary agricultural classes of the community from whom the Government obtain the largest revenue. For instance, the Godavery works pay Rupees 4 an acre for water-rate, and an outlay of less than Rupees 20 an acre has secured 20 per cent. return to the Government; but as the cost of transport has been reduced from 4 Annas a ton a mile to 1 Pie a ton a mile, or 98 per cent., the saving to the district is so large that this not only pays all the land and water-rates, but leaves some 40 lakhs a-year in the hands of the people, to accumulate a stock for promoting future industrial operations; on the proposed ghaut to the Pulneys there is absolutely nothing to show that an acre of land will pay an anna to the Government for the outlay. The population of the locality is excessively sparse, and where any good lands exist it is so excessively feverish, people can hardly be induced to go there at all.

4. Again, during the hot months there is no house available for the Assistant Engineers at Kodikanel, and any when below an elevation of 5,000 feet; the hills are so feverish, no work can be done on them at this time, and this is when the tracing is chiefly required at present; under the circumstances now only detailed in full and explained to the Government, I most respectfully solicit my officers be not removed from their important charges merely to accompany Major Law, when their services are so imperatively required here to protect the interests of the Government and the community.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th March 1876.

No. 195.

ORDER THEREON, 14th March 1876, No. 659.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 13.

Without accepting the statements of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this letter, His Grace the Governor in Council accepts the District Engineer's recommendation, and modifies his Order, No. 389 of 12th February, so far that Kodikanal shall not be considered as Mr. Davidson's temporary head-quarters.

2. The sub-divisional office at Pereacolum may be commenced in anticipation of specific provision of funds in 1876-77. The District Engineer will suggest where, in the meantime, Mr. Davidson shall make his head-quarters.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

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

No 4389.

From,

District Engineer's office

Madras 26 February 1876.

Ciutt. Coll. J. F. Fischer Esq.

District Engineer Madras

Major-General G. W. Walker Esq.

Secretary to Government

P. W. D. Madras.

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G.O. of the 12 February 1876, No. 389, and beg very respectfully to refer the Government to my letters of the 16th and the 23rd of February Nos. 4,231 + 4,241, respectively, which will I trust explain how impossible it is for me to allow Mr. Davidson or Ciutt. Boddy to be at Kodikanal without sacrificing the progress of all the works of the Taluq of which they have charge.

The art of ghat tracing is after all a very simple matter, and in any economical point of view, in a country like India, one of very little or no importance, in fact, this trace of some 30 miles in length to the Palney Hills is not likely to open out 5 square miles of good land for cultivation or about 3,000 acres and the cost will not be less than 3 lacs in all probability, or at the rate of Rs. 100 an acre, whereas on the Godavery works the irrigation and

No 659

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the

14 March 76

Read the following:

The District Engineer
Madura

(No: 24389 of 26 Feb 76)

Without accepting
the statements of paras
2 and 3 of this letter His
Grace the Governor in
Council yields to the
District Engineer's
remonstrance, and
modifies his order No.
389 of 12 February so
far that Kodikannel
shall not be considered
as Mr. Davidson's tem-
porary Head Quarters,
through

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P. M. 1876 29th
J. M. 1548
J. M. 1548
J. M. 1548

Mr. Davidson
Command
O. B. D.
J. M. 1548

Order of the
14 March

Order of the
14 March

Informing that
it will not be possible
to allow Mr. Davidson
to settle at O. B. D. 29th
to remain at Kodikannel &
signing on the authority of
constructing a school at
at Perambalur.

No 14 March 76 B. 194

4-3-76

though his occasional
revert to that station
^{at his discretion}
shall not be prohibited.

The Sub Divisional
Office at Poreccolum
may be commenced in
anticipation of specific
provision of funds in 1876-77.

The District Engineer
will suggest where, in
the mean time Mr.
Davidson shall make
his Head Quarters.

Yours

[Signature]
1876-77

S.E. Madras
En. P. W. R.
Distd 25-3-76

Public Works Dept.

Letter from the District
Engineer, Madras No 4389
dated 26th February 1876.

For Orders.

Submitted for
Orders.

Comd'r Major Genl. R.E.
Secretary to Govt. D.P.W.

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1878

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Dy. Engineer
Madras

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl.

G. O. No. 659

Res. 194-195

head quarters of Govt.
at Fort St. James

Sub-divisional office at
Parracolum, Madras Dist.
The Dy. Eng. permitted to
Commence the construction
of the — in anticipation of
specific provision of funds
in 1876-77 and requested to be
settled, where, in the meantime
Mr. Davidson is to have his