M.R.O. 1—77,005—8-8-37.

(1) Number of pages 12

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 436 Press Mis.

Dated 2 3 38

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 59. Read the following endorsement of the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 20th February 1877, No. 118:—

From R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager, Madras Railway Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 14th February 1877, No. 290.

I HAVE the honor to send you herewith, for submission to Government, the copy of a petition which I have received from M. Soobbaroya Chetty, the Boat and Raft Contractor to the Madras Railway, bringing to notice the loss he sustained in the months of October and November of last year, in discharging two ships consigned with stores to the Company.

2. The contract rates paid to M. Soobbaroya Chetty are Rupees 2-8-0 per trip for ordinary merchandise of 1½ tons minimum quantity, and Rupees 1-4-0 per ton for coal, coke and patent fuel.

3. At the present moment the rates ruling in Madras are Rupees 5 per trip for bale goods, and Rupees 6 per ton for iron.

4. The Company will shortly receive considerable consignments of iron and coal from England, and before the first shipment arrives I am anxious to know how the question is to be met.

5. Under M. Soobbaroya Chetty's contracts the Company holds as security for their faithful fulfilment Rupees 5,500, viz., Rupees 5,000 on account of the boat contract and Rupees 500 on account of the raft contract. These sums the Company can retain possession of as liquidated damages in the event of the contractor failing to fulfil the terms of his contract in satisfactory manner, but it appears to me that the circumstances of the case which are so very exceptional, and which could hardly have been foreseen when the agreements were entered into, do not warrant the exaction of the penalties provided for under the terms of the contracts.

6. I propose with the sanction of His Grace the Governor in Council to make to M. Soobbaroya Chetty, during the continuance of the excessive rates of boat hire, such compensation as the circumstances of each consignment may require, the compensation in each case being reported for the information and confirmation of the Government.

From M. SOOBBAROYA CHETTY, to R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager, dated 14th February 1877.

WITH great deference and humility I take the liberty of approaching your honor with the following few lines, which I trust will receive your honor's benign consideration. In the months of October and November of last year two vessels arrived at this port with cargo consigned to the Madras Railway Company, when the famine was in its incipient state, and boats and boat-

men were engaged at very enormous rates for the landing of the Railway cargo. My contract rate with the Company is Rupees 2-8-0 per trip, whereas the rates that I paid were Rupees 6 and 7 in the above-mentioned months; from this your honor will observe that I had to pay double the rate in October and treble in November to that of the contract rate. The enormous rates that were and are still prevalent were unprecedented, and the landing of grains is increasing day by day thereby giving much stimulus to the already enhanced boat-hire. As your honor is aware of all the existing difficulties thoroughly in procuring boats and men, I need not dwell any more on the subject. The following statement of bills passed by the Company for boat-hire and that paid by me for the job will convince your honor the extent of loss sustained by me :—

Vessels.	Number of Trips.	Amount paid by the Company.			Amount paid by the Contractor.			Difference (Loss).		
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
British Empire	215	503	15	0	1,290	0	0	786	1	0
James Beazley	347	780	8	0	2,429	0	0	1,648	8	0
Total ...	562	1,284	7	0	3,719	0	0	2,434	9	0

The foregoing statement exhibits a loss of Rupees 2,434-9-0, or more than 100 per cent. upon the amount actually received by me. I have been instructed by the General Storekeeper to hold myself in readiness with rafts and boats to land the heavy cargo daily expected from England in the steamer *Golden Horn* of 1,300 tons burden, and as the state of things are very threatening and gloomy in the boat market, about the exorbitant rates combined with the difficulty of procuring boats, leaves me quite stunned; and I will be ruined to such an extent that I can barely hope to recover from such a loss. I therefore trust that your honor will kindly pass increased rate, to hold good so long as the present difficulties exist. Although I am bound to fulfil the terms of my contract, yet I humbly request your honor to take into consideration the ruinous state in which I am now placed, and I therefore hope that this may arouse your honor's sympathies and save me from utter ruin and dire calamity staring in the face hourly.

In conclusion I may here state, for your information, that Mr. W. S. Betts, the Agent of the South Indian Railway Company, has, it appears, telegraphed to Mr. Fox, the Resident Engineer at Madras, to allow extra boat and raft hire as he thinks proper.

Begging to be excused for encroaching upon your valuable time.

SUBMITTED for the consideration of Government.

2. It has been ascertained from the Master Attendant that his department does not employ a contractor to supply boats for Government purposes. Captain Taylor states that "the Railway boat contractor must of necessity find great difficulty and trouble in complying with the terms of his contract during the present crisis, and the consequent independence of masula boatmen."

3. I recommend that the circumstances connected with each consignment be laid before the Company's Agent and the Consulting Engineer to Government for disposal at their ordinary official meetings; the amount of compensation recommended in each case being reported for the approval of Government.

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd March 1877. *No.* 726.

No. 60. ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1877, No. 726.

RAILWAY, No. 6.

THE recommendation of the Consulting Engineer is approved by Government.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Railway Branch.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
„ Marine Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Railway Branch.

Consulting Engineer's Office,
Madras, 20th February 1877.

Letter from Agent Madras Rail-
-way No: 290 - 14th February 1877.

No. 1180

SUBMITTED for the consideration of Government.

2. It has been ascertained from the Master Attendant that his department does not employ a contractor to supply boats for Government purposes. Captain Taylor states that "the Railway "boat contractor must of necessity "find great difficulty and trouble "in complying with the terms of "his contract during the present "crisis, and the consequent in-"-dependence of Masulo boatmen".

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P.W.D.
21FEB77
No. 1234

From
The Asst. Secy. to Govt.
for Rlys.
Dated 20th Feb. 1877
No. 118
Encls: 2

Lieut. Col. RE
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

c. 22.2.77

P. W. Department.

Read the following:—

Endorsement from Consulting Engineer for Railways No. 118 dated 20th February 1877 with enclosure.

FOR ORDERS.

Lieut. Col. RE,
Joint Secretary to Government
Railway Department.

Oct 1834

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

FOR ORDERS.

To The Chief Engr for Wks

Dated

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 2nd March 1877, No. 726

Nos. 59-60

No 726 of 2 March 77

Recommendation of the Consulting Engineer sanctioned by Government.

Ld.

Soobbayya Chetty, Craft the boat Contractor to the Madras Railway. The recommendation of the Consulting Engineer to grant compensation to — during the continuance of the Excessive rates of Boat hire, sanctioned.

C.E. for Engr
Marine Dept
Dispd 22-3-77

C. 2 — 61