

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper —

From C. A. GALTON, Esq, Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bellary, 18th December 1884, No 3477

In reply to G O, dated 22nd November, No 2516-A, Public, which only reached me on the 5th instant, I have the honor to state that I took an early opportunity of visiting Hampi to inspect the work now being carried on by Mr Black in company with Mr Bentley Taylor, the Local Fund Engineer, whose opinion I now forward. I found that no work has been carried on since the middle of August when Mr Black reported that, owing to his not being provided with funds, his workmen would not remain and he had been obliged to discontinue his operations. He has, I understood him to say, received no reply to numerous applications for funds, and his own salary is many months in arrears. The balance due for the present year is, I believe, principally due to Mr Black himself and his draughtsman, as the funds received were utilized in paying off the laborers.

2 The work at the Vittalasawmi temple, where Mr Black has been engaged, remaining to be done is specified in detail in his estimate printed in the Government Order under reply. Mr Bentley Taylor's opinion regarding each item is given in the letter which I now forward herewith, the chief item is the propping up of beams and cornices which are massive stone slabs weighing several tons (I saw two which Mr. Black said weighed 9 tons each), and I have no hesitation in saying that such work cannot possibly be undertaken in the Revenue department. The beams have first to be propped up by a pile of sleepers and an iron rail inserted into the stone wall on each side to give support. It will require skilled labor and the close supervision of some one possessing engineering knowledge and mechanical skill to accomplish the task successfully. I have no one at my disposal who could be entrusted with such operations. The same remark applies to the dismantling of the roof of the adytum (where enormous blocks in a very dangerous state have to be dealt with, and the risk to those employed if not scientifically directed is likely to be considerable) and to the reconstruction of the outside ashlar walls. The other items, except the enclosure wall, are trifling. As regards this wall it is a massive erection much in excess of requirements merely for the exclusion of trespassers which, as Mr Bentley Taylor points out, could have been secured at a much less cost by an aloe hedge and ditch, but Mr Black told me that the wall had been reconstructed of the original dimensions by the express orders of Major Cole, he proposes to reduce the height and thickness, and if the money can be spared a wall will certainly be most sightly and in keeping with the surroundings than a hedge and ditch. I don't think that completion of the enclosure could be carried out more cheaply in the Revenue department, and it certainly could not be done as well.

3 With regard to the propping of beams in the five other temples named, the work cannot be entrusted to the Revenue department for the reasons already given, and I am opposed to spending any money on this object. All these temples are in such an advanced state of decay that the propping of a beam here and there will not add materially to their stability, and the improvement will be hardly appreciable when

the money has been spent To conserve these buildings properly would cost an enormous sum, and it would be far better to devote all the money that can be spared to the preservation of one temple as a monument of the architecture of the time A good deal has been done by Mr Black, who is much interested in the work, and it could not be in better hands He says that he can complete what he has estimated for on the Vittalasawmi pagoda in about three months' time I think it would be much to be regretted if the work were now abandoned, and at least what has been begun should be completed The slow rate of progress has been due, I understand, in a great measure to the fact that funds were not provided for pushing on operations, and there seems to have been some conflict of opinion in the direction of the work which hampered Mr Black, Major Cole's and Dr Burgess' views not being in accord

ENCLOSURE

From H R BENTLEY TAYLOR, Esq., Local Fund Engineer, to the Acting Collector of Bellary, dated Hospet, 12th December 1884, No 154-C

With reference to G O, No 2516-A,* dated 22nd November 1884, I have the honor to

* Herewith returned

inform you that, after a careful inspection of the work estimated for for the restoration and conservation of the Hampi ruins in Mr Black's report and estimate, I am of decided opinion than for the successful and complete carrying out of the same a constant and unremitting supervision by a competent engineer is absolutely essential, and that the work cannot therefore be carried out by the Local Fund Engineering department, whose officers already have as much work as they can possibly perform satisfactorily

With reference to the various items of the estimate I have the honor to report as follows —

ROOFING

(1) *Terracing, filling cracks, &c, Rs 12* — This item is stated to be necessary to prevent leakage, and if this can be accomplished with so small an outlay it would seem a desirable item of expenditure

(2) *Dismantling roof of adytum, Rs 172* — This relates to the concrete terracing and stone beams, and appears rather a low estimate The work seems absolutely necessary, as the stone beams are cracked in many places, and in some cases are merely supported by the weight of the superstructure

(3) *Railway iron, Rs 425* — According to the usual rates this is rather a high estimate, the cost being 4 pies per cubic foot, which would be about Rs 212 for the amount required

(4) *Propping beams for gopurams, Rs 390* — This is merely an item for labor, which it is very difficult for me to estimate Mr Black's experience makes him the best judge

(5) *400 old wooden sleepers, Rs 1,600* — According to the Local Fund Board's schedule rates, new jungle-wood sleepers can be delivered at site of work—size 6' x 6" x 4"—for rather less than Rs 3 each, and I understand old pinewood ones can be procured from the southern Mahratta Railway Company at a normal rate Inquiries are being made with regard to this, and a report will be submitted in a few days

(6) *Plastering inside walls, Rs 23* — I should think pointing would meet the requirement and be certainly more sightly

(7) *Five steps, Rs 120* — This work would tend greatly to the improvement of the external appearance of the temple and appears a judicious expenditure

(8) *Flooring, painting, Rupees 64* — Apparently necessary to prevent leakage into the foundations

(9) *Outside walls of enclosure, Rs 990* — The amount proposed would not be sufficient to erect a wall that would add to the appearance of enclosure I would suggest, therefore, a trench and aloe fence in its place at about one-tenth the cost and answering the same purpose adequately

(10) *Gates, Rs 60* — Decidedly necessary to complete the enclosure

(11) *Ashlar walls, Rs 120* — The three topmost courses alone remain to be placed, and the wall is incomplete as a specimen of architecture without them; the cost is small, and the additional effect would be proportionately enhanced.

(12) *Propping beams in five other temples, Rs 1,208* — This item appears to me rather a pity The sum proposed is ridiculously small, and the conservation could only be very partial. The money might be spent much more advantageously in the Vittalasawmi temple, thus concentrating all available funds in as complete a conservation of one temple (and that the finest) as possible

ORDER—dated 23rd January 1885, No 205, Public

No alteration will be made in existing arrangements, but the papers will be forwarded to Dr Burgess for early remarks

(True Extract)

E F WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary
" Public Works department.
To Dr Burgess
" R Sewell, Esq
" Dr G Bidie

Exd C Howarth.

P. N. D.

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

PUBLIC.

No 266 May - July 1885

Communicated to the
Suptg. Infr. III Circle in
Continuation of G.O. 246 W
dated 2nd February 1885.

(Signed) J. E. III

Issued

Recd

Encl

G O., 23rd January 1885, No. 205.

No 211 May - July 1885

JANUARY.

Archæology.

Directing that no alteration be made in existing arrangements as regards repairs to the Hampi temples, but forwarding the papers to Dr Burgess for early remarks

S. E. III Circle

With Order

23RD JANUARY 1885, No 205, PUBLIC

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1885 No 266

(Communicated to the Suptg Engineer to the Suptg Engineer III Circle in continuation of G.O. 246 N dated 22 July 1885)
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2.2.85

LC No 822

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4/2/85

1885 No 266

S E. III Circle 4.2.85

With order

WJ