

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following papers :—

From I. DECLE, Esq., C.E., Chief Agent for Decauville's Patent Portable Railways, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras, dated 4, Tamarind Lane, Bombay, 9th January 1885.

I beg to put before you the subject of portable railways. Our plant has now been used extensively in India, and, notwithstanding the cheap labor of this country, has proved everywhere, even when only a few hundred feet were required, a decided success.

2. Amongst the Executive Engineers who have adopted it, Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob, the Executive Engineer, Jeypore-Rajputana, has given it the longest trial, having adopted our system nearly since three years, and, as you will see from the certificate he has given to us, of which I enclose a copy, it has proved a most decided success. I would therefore consider it a great favor if you would give our portable railways a trial in the Madras presidency for Government work.

3. In order to enable you to try our plant, this is what I can propose to you.

I will send you half-a-mile or one mile of line with rolling stock *on trial*. You will use it during one month or six weeks on any of your works, and if, after that time, it does not prove entirely satisfactory, or if you find that the saving by the use of it is not great enough to justify the expense, I will take it back *without any charge* for use or accidental damage. You will simply have to pay the transport expenses from our works to the place of delivery, all the return charges being *at my own expense*.

4. Such an offer, I have no doubt, will meet with your approval, and I would, of course, not make it if I was not *certain* that the plant will be most valuable to you.

5. As I was telling you above, it will answer *even in the smallest works*, construction of dak bungalows, transport of earth, of bricks; in fact everywhere materials have to be transported, however short may be the distance.

6. Should you actually have no work requiring one mile of line, you might send a portion of it in different places and be able in this way to obtain several reports from different Engineers.

7. Since less than three years Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob has given us five different orders, and he is now using in small and big works 300 wagons. The plant has been paid simply by the saving he has effected on his work, and he never wanted to ask for a credit from the State for this item, over half-a-lakh of rupees.

8. We are now supplying a line to the Bombay dockyard, and our lines are now used by seventeen different constituents with daily increased success. Amongst our constituents are the Supreme Government, the Bombay, Punjab Governments, the Jeypore, Dholepur Executive Engineers, &c.

9. We would also be glad if you would try one of our patent portable steel bridges, of which I enclose a short description. They offer great advantages for India.

The very light weight of the pieces which form them * enables them to be carried in ordinary country carts on the roughest ground. They are quickly and easily laid down, without the use of special machinery, as cranes, &c. Being, besides, formed of similar pieces, whatever may be the size of the bridge wanted, 10 feet or 2,000 feet, if a stock is kept, a bridge of any length can be made at a moment's notice. Their great span (70 feet) enables them to be used during the rains on large rivers very economically, simply supporting them by a boat every 70 feet.

* The heaviest only weighs 3 cwt.

10. In Cochin China in each district a stock of them is always kept, and they give splendid results.

11. The Dutch Government has adopted them for Java, and I have recently received an order for one of them from the Thakore of Morvi.

12. Our railway lines (the largest sizes) can be very advantageously used as feeders to big lines, being placed on roadside.

13. A most important question to which I call especially your attention is that of the Famine. In case of famine, if a stock of our lines is kept, in almost no time a steam tramway can be established on the side of any road it being possible with sufficient coolies to lay down *12 to 15 miles in one day*, and even more if steam is not used. The paying weight of our wagons compared to the dead weight is most striking. For large goods wagons weighing 1 ton 2 to 5 tons of goods can be carried.

14. In the lighter ones well suited for storing, as they are dismountable, $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons can be carried, and they only weigh $\frac{7\frac{1}{2}}{10}$ of a ton. Instead of that a broad gauge line wagon which carries 10 tons generally weighs at least 5 tons.

15. On the metre gauge the wagons which carry 87 maunds weigh 92 maunds.

I hope you will be able to accept our offer for the small line we propose to give you on trial.

No. 186 D.

Forwarded for remarks.

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

26th January 1885.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

From the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, dated 29th April 1885, No. 43 G.L.

„ „ „ II „ „ 7th „ „ „ 1 G.L.

„ „ „ III „ „ 1st „ „ „ 6.

„ „ „ IV „ „ 4th March „ „ 104 E.W.

„ „ „ VI „ „ 14th „ „ „ 1976 T.J.

„ Chief Agent for Decauville's Patent Portable Railways, 23rd April 1885, No. 108.

ORDER—dated 19th May 1885, No. 1179 W., Public Works.

The Government resolve to accept the offer of the Agent for Decauville's Portable Railways to take, on trial, one mile of line with rolling stock complete. It is considered that the trial can best be made on earthwork; the materials of the tramway being delivered at the Public Works Stores, whence they can be made available in any circle in which suitable work on a large scale is in progress. Perhaps the work at the Red Hills tank can be taken up. The Superintendent of Works will report on this point.

2. As regards the portable bridges, further information seems necessary, and the Agent will be addressed on the subject.

(Here enter No. 1180 W., dated 19th May 1885.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To Superintending Engineers.

„ the Superintendent of Works, Tank Maintenance Scheme.

„ the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated May, 19th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 19th May 1885, No. 1179 W.

MAY.

Decauville's Portable Railways

Accepting the offer of the Agent for — to take on trial one mile of line with rolling stock complete, and issuing instructions for its delivery and use.

No. 1215 C. 24 March 86
P.W.D.

Office-Note

From W

To C.A.

It is proposed to transfer the half-mile of Decauville's Portable Railway to the Pudukkudla Project Division when you have finished with it.

Please let me know when it will be available.

/ Sd/- J.S.
W

/ Sd/- Mub

Dec. 3. 86,

19TH MAY 1885, No. 1180 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

LETTER—from

COLONEL J. SHAW-STEWART, R.E.,

Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Public Works Department,

To

L. DECLE, Esq.,

Chief Agent, Decauville's Patent Portable Railways, &c.

SIR,

Adverting to your letters quoted in the margin, I am directed to inform you that the Madras Government have resolved to accept the offer made by you of one mile of line with rolling stock, to be taken on trial, on the terms specified in your letter of the 9th January 1885. I am accordingly to request that you will be so good as to arrange for the delivery, at the Public Works Stores, Madras, of the requisite materials, as soon as practicable.

2. As regards the Decauville portable bridges, further information seems necessary to admit of a definite opinion being formed as to their economy and usefulness. I am to request, therefore, that you will supply plans and full details for certain spans, with particulars of cost.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

OOTACAMUND,
19th May 1885.

Exd. A. Grubert.
Spare Copies

22.12.15-Cy 24-3-86

*sd
26/3*

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Gobt. of {1885} Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated May, 19th.

Recd.

Encl.

19th May 1885, No. 1180 W.

MAY.

Decauville's Portable Railways

Intimating acceptance of offer to take on trial one mile of line with rolling stock, and requesting further information in regard to portable bridges.

13TH NOVEMBER 1885, No. 2727 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following papers :—

Circular memorandum, dated 9th October 1885, No. 1610 C.									
From the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, dated 16th Oct. 1885, No. 1154 T. J.									
"	"	"	III	"	"	17th	"	"	1514.
"	"	"	V	"	"	21st	"	"	3111.
"	"	"	II	"	"	22nd	"	"	249 G.L.
"	"	"	V	"	"	29th	"	"	3253.
Telegram from	"	"	II	"	"	30th	"	"	"
Office note from	"	"	V	"	"	10th Nov.	"	"	3405.

ORDER—dated 13th November 1885, No. 2727 W., Public Works.

In memorandum No. 1610 C., dated 9th October 1885, Superintending Engineers were requested to report whether there was any suitable work in their respective circles on which the trial mile of Decauville's portable railway, recently received from France, could be experimentally used. Replies have not been received from the I and IV Circles, but as it is desirable that the experiment be made at an early date, the Government resolve to dispose of the matter in accordance with the papers recorded above.

2. The Superintending Engineer, V Circle, reports that the plant, rolling stock, &c., received are as follows :—

1,560 meters of straight line in sections of 5 meters.
10 do. in sections of 2.50 meters.
5 do. in sections of 1.25 do.
20 do. of curved line in sections of 2.50 meters.
5 do. do. do. of 1.25 do.
2 crossings.
2 movable switches.
1 portable turntable.
1 crowbar.
16 wagons to hold 27 cubic feet.
4 do. 18 do.
2 wagons for carrying stones.
2 do. do. liquids.
8 transformations for wagons.
1 patent crane.

3. The Government direct that the foregoing articles be distributed as follows :—

- (a) Half to Bezvada for use in the quarries.
- (b) Half to Nellore for use on the anicut repairs.

The portable turntable, patent crane and crowbar will be forwarded to Nellore. The Superintendent, Public Works Stores, will despatch the articles in accordance with the foregoing instructions as early as practicable.

4. The Superintendent of Works, in charge II Circle, will see that the railway is properly tested, and will report on the progress of the experiment at the two stations named, three months after receipt of the material.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To Superintending Engineers.
To the Superintendent of Works, in charge II Circle.
,, Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Exd. J. Henricus.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated November, 13th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 13th Nov. 1885, No. 2727 W.

NOVEMBER.

Decauville's Portable Railway

Orders issuing instructions for the distribution of the railway and rolling stock received from France for experimental use.

No. 401
E.W.
Superintending Engineer's Office, 4th Floor
Coimbatore, 20 October 1886.
From

The Superintending Engineer,
IV Circle.

To,

The Chief Engineer,
P. W. Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Executive Engineer, West Coast Division has submitted an estimate of Rs. 4,135- for clearing away the effects of the great land slips that occurred during July/86 in the 5" and 6" furlongs of 33rd mile and the 28th mile of the Tamracheri Ghat, Calicut-Vayitri Road.

2. Part of the work - Sufficient to clear a passage for traffic - has been done at a cost of Rs. 770 and this has been charged to maintenance of the road.

3. The remaining work is necessary in order to bring the road to its

its proper dimensions and to provide piers and parapets.

4. It is considered that the cost of these special repairs, due to exceptionally heavy landslips cannot be met from either the maintenance grant or the estimate for improvements, and it is therefore proposed that the estimated cost Rs: 4135 should be classed as special repairs and met by a transfer of funds from the years grant of Rs: 1,00,000 for the improvements of the road.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Respectfully Colonel. H. C.
Superintendent, 4th Circle

From

The Supg Engineer
4th Circle

To,

The Chief Engineer
P.W. Department

Dated 20th
Received. } October 1886

N^o. 401
E.W.

Tamrachen Ghaut Calicut
Vayitri Road.

Proposes the transfer
of Rs. 4,135 the cost of Special
repairs to— from the gran
of Rs. 1,00,000 for the Improve
ments of the—

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 25th Oct 1886

Read the following

Letter from the Supg Engg, IV Circle
H.E. N^o. 401, d/20th Oct 86.

The Supg Engineer,
proposal to transfer
Rs. 4,135 from the current
years grant for improve-
ments to the Calicut
Vayitri road to meet the
cost of Special repairs
required for the road, is
sanctioned

To
The Supg Engg, IV Circle
in Exar. P.W. Accts.

23/10/86

23/10/86

3579 C 14-10-86.
3551 C 13-10-86.
3524 C 11-10-86.
645-D 14-9-86.
1146 C 20-3-86.
2587 4-4-11-85
1283 C 20-3-86.

1887.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 10085

From

The Engineer P.W. Dept.

ENCLOS.— 2

No. 675

Dated 22^d December 1886

Received 23

SUBJECT.

For working certain correspond-
-ence relative to repairs
to Calicut Vizitri Road
during construction for 3 years.

DISPOSAL.

No. Dated

To C.

The circumstances were
explained in the Suppy. Engineer's
letter No. 401 E.H. dated 20th October
1886, and his action was approved
in G.O. No. 2817 H of 25th idem.

It does not seem necessary
to make any change.

(Sd) J.O.H.

6.1.87 H

(Sd) H. d. C. H.

25. 12.86

H. H.

No. 113
E.H.

From,

Superintending Engg's Office
Limbatores, 8th March 1887.

Colonel. J. Beatty. R.E.
Superintending Engineer.

To,

The Chief Engineer,
P.W. Department.

Sir,

With reference to the special
repairs on the Tamracheri ghāt for
which an allotment was granted
in G.O. No. 2817 W dated 25th October 86,
I have the honor to inform you that
the work will cost more than was
at first anticipated and the Executive
Engineer has submitted a supplement-
al estimate of Rupees 1455.

2. As explained in para 4 of
my letter No. 401 dated 20th October 86,
I propose that the amount of this
supplemental estimate should
be met by a transfer of funds from
the

the grant for the Improvements
of the Road.

3. I send the report accom-
panying the supplemental esti-
mate for your information.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obt^l Serv^t

L. Beatty. Colonel Rb.
Supg Engr 4th Lvre.

LB

P.W. No 1900

From

Colonel J. Beatty, R.E.
Supt. Engineer
4th Circle.

Dated 8th }
Received } March 1887

No. 113
E. W.
Enclosure. 1.

Special Repairs to Calicut
Vayitri Road.
Submits for information
the report accompanying
the supplemental estimate
for the — & propose a transfer
of funds from the grant
for the improvement of the
Road.

11-759 W

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 11th March 1887

Read the following

From the Suptg. Engineer IV Circle. H. E. No. 113 E. W. 4th Circle. March 1887.

The following transfer of
funds is sanctioned:-

Provincial

From

To

Improving the road from
Calicut to Vayitri —

Rs. 1,455

Communications, Repairs,
West Coast Division —

Rs. 1,455

10/3/87

11/3/87

The Suptg. Engr. IV Circle
with one encl.
" Examiner of P.W. Accounts.

Cu

11/3

17 C 7.10.7
28174 25.10.86
3579 C 14.10.86
3551 C 13.10.86
3524 C 11.10.86
645 D 14.9.86
1283 C 20.3.86
1146 C 20.3.86
25874 4.11.85
15274 17.05

B. 22759 4.11.85

14.11.85

14.11.85

14/3. 14/3



B5