

Govt. of (1888) Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Order No. 1813 Wd/17
June 1888

*Communicated to the Supg.
Engineer, T. Civil.*

sof L.P.H.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 4th June 1888, No. 577 M.

No. 1813 Wd/17 June

JUNE.

Bridges.

Stating that the Cocanada Municipal Council and the District Board should confer together for repairing the iron girder bridge and for keeping it in thorough order in future.

St. I. Civil

no 1386 w a 11.5.88.
no 792 w a 9.8.88

P.W.C. No. 5675

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1888) Madras.

4TH JUNE 1888, No. 577 M., LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers:—

G.O., dated 31st December 1887, Mis. No. 1360 M., Local and Municipal.

Read—the following papers:—

From G. T. WALCH, Esq., Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Madras, dated 30th November 1887, No. 2092-G.D.

With reference to G.O., No. 2074, dated 5th September 1885, which, owing to the death of Colonel Montgomerie and subsequent changes of officers, remained long unattended to, I have the honor to say that an estimate for dealing with the worst parts of the Cocanada bridge and patching it up for a time has been prepared by the Dowlaishweram workshops and amounts to upwards of Rs. 10,000, but after personal examination of the bridge, I have had forced on me the belief that the bridge is not worth repairing.

2. I tried to get Messrs. Massey and Co. to make an offer for putting the bridge into thorough repair, but after examining it and keeping me upwards of six months in doubt as to their intentions in the matter, they have just written to say that they utterly decline to undertake repairs to the bridge, which they consider should be entirely rebuilt.

3. I have now asked Messrs. Burn and Co., of Calcutta, to look into the matter and make an offer either for repair or reconstruction of the bridge, and on receipt of their reply will communicate it to you.

4. Last month, one of the supporting piles, having been struck by a boat, snapped in two and there was danger of two of the girders falling. My action in the matter, which I trust will meet with approval, is shown in my letter (to the Chairman, Cocanada Municipality), No. 2079-G.D., dated 30th November 1887, copy of which is enclosed.

5. The bridge has hitherto been in charge of the Municipality, who have utterly neglected it, and I would recommend that, during the remainder of its life (exclusive of roadway over), it should be placed under charge of this department with funds for its up-keep—say, Rs. 1,000 for immediate patches, &c., and Rs. 500 for a year's maintenance.

ENCLOSURE.

From G. T. WALCH, Esq., Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Cocanada, dated 30th November 1887, No. 2079-G.D.

With reference to your No. 247, dated 17th October 1887, I have the honor to inform you that as the matter seemed one of urgency for the safety of the public, I instructed the Executive Engineer to get such steps taken as would secure the bridge from sudden and immediate

collapse without waiting for any preliminary estimate; indeed, the nature of the work was such that no preliminary estimate could have been of any value. The bill will be sent to you as soon as what is now being done has been finished.

2. As regards the question of general repairs to the bridge, I had an estimate prepared of the most urgently necessary work, which came to upwards of Rs. 10,000, but after personal inspection of the bridge, I consider that its state is such that it is inadvisable to spend many thousands of rupees on patching it up, and that it would be better to put up an entirely new structure.

3. I asked Messrs. Massey and Co. to inspect the work and make an offer for its repairs, but after careful inspection, they have declined to have anything to do with repairing it, as they do not consider it possible to make a good job of it.

4. That the bridge has had such a short life is due to a great extent to its neglect by the Municipality, in whose charge it has for many years been.

From G. T. WALCH, Esq., Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 6th December 1887, No. 2118-G.D.

In continuation of my No. 2092, dated 30th November 1887, I have the honor to say that the Cocanada screw pile bridge was constructed in 1864—1867 at a cost of about Rs. 81,683; see G.O., No. 3913, dated 11th December 1866.

No. 4652-C.

Transferred to the Local and Municipal Department, in continuation of G.O., No. 2074 W., dated 5th September 1885.

CHEPÂK, (Signed) W. L. C. BADDELEY, Captain, R.E.,
14th December 1887. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

From G. T. WALCH, Esq., Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 8th December 1887, No. 2138-G.D.

In continuation of my Nos. 2092-G.D. of 30th November, and 2118-G.D. of 6th December 1887, I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter of 29th November from Messrs. Burn and Co., Calcutta, who, it appears, erected the existing bridge at Cocanada.

ENCLOSURE.

From Messrs. BURN AND CO., to the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, Dowlaishweram, dated Howrah, 29th November 1887, No. H.—6217.

We are much obliged for your letter, No. 1964-G.D., of 15th instant. We erected a bridge in Cocanada some 25 years ago, and have asked Mr. H. J. Roberts, one of our Engineers, who is now in Madras, to see you on the subject of the repair or replacement of the Cocanada bridge. Should Mr. Roberts not have seen you before this reaches you, a telegram or letter to him, care of Messrs. Gordon Woodroffe and Co., Madras, will find him. Mr. Roberts left Vizagapatam after the opening of the bridge there.

No. 4731-C.

Transferred to the Local and Municipal Department, in continuation of endorsement, No. 4652 C., dated 14th December 1887.

CHEPAK, (Signed) W. L. C. BADDELEY, Capt., R.E.,
19th December 1887. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

Order—dated 31st December 1887, Mis. No. 1360 M., Local and Municipal.

Communicated to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Cocanada, who is requested to report as soon as possible what action the Council propose to take in the matter, which appears very urgent.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Cocanada,
through the Collector of Godavari.
„ Public Works Department.

G.O., dated 18th February 1888, Mis. No. 168 M., Local and Municipal.

Read—the following letter from G. T. WALCH, Esq., Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Ramabhadrapuram, 2nd February 1888, No. 2474 G.D.—

In continuation of my No. 2092, dated 30th November 1887, and No. 2118, 6th December 1887, and with reference to G.O., No. 39, of 6th January 1888, I have the honor to forward herewith, in original, letter, No. 91, of 11th January 1888, from Messrs. Burn and Co., with its enclosures.

2. You will see that they make two offers—one (A) to merely repair the existing work according to specification for Rs. 32,500; the other (B) to repair the two spans at each end of the bridge, and to put up, instead of the existing two middle spans, new girders carrying the roadway on their lower booms, and so giving to these new spans some 3 feet extra headway—Rs. 39,000. Messrs. Burn and Co. also state that their price for an entirely new set of girders put up would be Rs. 52,000.

3. On the 13th December last, I accompanied Messrs. Burn and Co.'s representative (Mr. Roberts) in as thorough an examination of the existing work as was possible without dismantling the roadway and moving the girders, and I saw—as indeed I had before seen—how impossible it is to make any accurate detail estimate of what is actually necessary, and I am therefore not surprised that Messrs. Burn and Co. can only make an offer for the work by a lump sum.

4. I would recommend that offer B be accepted, as it has over offer A the very great advantage of providing two bays with extra headway, which will enable boats to pass under at all, or almost all, tides, whereas now numbers of boats are stopped at every high tide, and I am sure it will be much more satisfactory to have entirely new girders for these spans. The sum asked is large, but I do not think there is any probability of getting it done by a respectable firm with great experience in such work for less.

5. There would be some minor details to be added to the specifications for the work, e.g., thorough “painting” as well as “scraping” of all iron work.

6. The bridge, as I have already reported, has for many years been considered the property of the Cocanada Municipality, but it was constructed from “Imperial Funds;” it is now positively unsafe.

No. 653-C.

Forwarded to the Local and Municipal Department for very early orders, with reference to G.O., in that department, Mis. No. 1360 M., dated 31st December 1887.

2. The Superintending Engineer's recommendation in his paragraph 4 is supported in this department.

14th February 1888.

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Col., R.E.,
Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

Order—dated 18th February 1888, Mis. No. 168 M., Local and Municipal.

Communicated to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Cocanada, in continuation of G.O., dated 31st December 1887, No. 1360 M., for very early report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Cocanada,
through the Collector of Godáviri.
„ Public Works Department.

READ—also the following paper:—

From M.R.Ry. T. LAKSHMI NARASIMHAM GAR, Rao Bahadur, Chairman, Municipal Council, Cocanada, to the Chief Secretary to Government (through the Revenue Officer in charge of the Cocanada Division), dated Cocanada, 6th April 1888, No. 3.

With reference to G.O., Mis. No. 168 M., dated 18th February 1888, I have the honor to forward herewith, for favorable consideration of the Government, a copy of the resolution of the Council passed at their meeting held on 3rd ultimo regarding the repairs of the iron girder bridge.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Councillors of the Cocanada Municipality passed at their meeting held on Saturday, the 3rd March 1888.

16. (1) Read G.O., dated 31st December 1887, Mis. No. 1360 M., passed on the letter of the Superintending Engineer of the I Circle, dated 30th November 1887, No. 2092-G.D., suggesting that the iron bridge of Cocanada should be made over to Public Works Department with an annual provision of Rs. 500 for its maintenance and a lump sum of Rs. 1,000 for its temporary repairs.

(2) Read G.O., dated 18th February 1888, Mis. No. 168 M., on the letter of the Superintending Engineer, dated 2nd February 1888, No. 2474-G.D., to Government, communicating the offers of Messrs. Burn and Co. regarding the thorough repairs of the bridge.

(3) Read also G.O., dated 3rd March 1875, No. 486, imposing on this Municipality the liability to keep the bridge in repairs, and considering that this Municipality is entitled to ask for the aid from the Local Board.

Resolution.—On the suggestion of the Superintending Engineer, the Council have directed estimates to be prepared for sundry repairs of the bridge in question, but before the work is sanctioned, one of the screw-piles of the same was broken by an accident caused by a boat, and the Council have got it replaced at a cost of Rs. 801-4-0 through the agency of Public Works Department officers with a view to recover the cost from the boat owner.

The Council think that what is stated in the Superintending Engineer's letter as the cost of immediate patches (Rs. 1,000) is the cost of replacing of the screw-pile above mentioned.

The Council cannot think that the neglect of the Council, if there be any, contributed to the present state of the bridge, as they have always willingly attended, a little earlier or later, to the suggestions of the Public Works Department officers, to whom the Council look for help and advice in matters of this kind; but they think, as was observed by Mr. A. W. Rosling, an Engineer of Messrs. Massey and Co., of Madras, who inspected the bridge shortly before the first communication of the Superintending Engineer on the subject, and who at the request of the Chairman communicated his views to the Superintending Engineer, that the present state of the bridge is the consequence of the fact that some of the girders bent down in the middle.

The Council have no objection that the bridge be made over to the Public Works Department officers, but regard being had to the income and the diverse demands, among which are included the water-works and the replacing of a large wooden bridge, the Council consider that they cannot conveniently pay more than Rs. 240 per annum for its maintenance if the said sum is not sufficient and respectfully express their inability to afford to pay for the proposed repairs at a cost of Rs. 52,000.

No. 231.

Submitted to the Collector.

(Signed) W. C. McMURRAY,
Deputy Collector.

11th April 1888.

No. 21.

Submitted to Government.

(Signed) W. A. HAPPELL,
Collector.

COCANADA,
18th April 1888.

ORDER—dated 4th June 1888, No. 577 M., Local and Municipal.

The Municipal Council and the District Board should confer together and settle what is to be done without further loss of time. The Government are inclined to think that it would be an equitable arrangement for the Board to undertake the repair of the bridge upon receiving, for the future, a share of the Municipal tolls. The Government built the bridge at a cost of over Rs. 80,000 only 21 years ago, and can hold out no hope of any very substantial assistance on this occasion. Had the Municipal Council paid proper attention to the bridge, it would, His Excellency in Council is convinced, have lasted much longer.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Cocanada,
through the Collector of Godáviri.
„ President, District Board, Godáviri.
„ Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.