

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Reulie DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>1101</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	<i>21-10</i>	<i>1965</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st October 1865.

Read the following papers :—

No. 114. From Messrs. J. BEAUMONT and J. W. MINCHIN, Ootacamund ; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 6th October 1865.

With reference to an offer recently made by us to open out for Bandy Traffic the forty miles of imperial road between Tambracherry Ghaut and the Mysore frontier, we have the honor to state that from a communication since received from Colonel Walker upon this subject, we learn that he is not desirous of availing himself of our services.

2. He considers his staff sufficient to accomplish the work which we proposed to undertake ; and, under these circumstances, we venture to hope that our Superintending Engineer will execute within the period specified by us the task which we were prepared to perform. Our proposition to undertake this main central line through Wynaad was suggested by our knowledge of the utter inadequacy of Colonel Walker's staff in our District to carry out the numerous works on hand ; and notwithstanding the opinion entertained by the Superintending Engineer, we cannot abstain from recording our conviction that the staff now employed will be unable to perform, within the same time, the work which we had proposed personally to supervise and execute.

3. We can state from recent and personal inspection of the proposed road, that scarcely any progress is being made ; that the present period when most labor is obtainable is not being availed of ; and we do not hesitate to offer our assurance that, unless immediate addition be made to the executive staff in Wynaad, or concentration upon this special line of that now at disposal, and energetic arrangements for the collection of coolies be instituted, it will be utterly impossible for the road to be opened out for cart traffic during the ensuing twelve months.

From Lieutenant Colonel G. W. WALKER, to Mr. J. BEAUMONT, dated Cochin, 16th September 1865.

Your offer, as now modified, is hardly worth my acceptance. Giving up the advance of funds, the tracing of the line, the preparation of estimates and plans, you offer only to open out a *scratch* road for us. Whereas, if labor is to be had at all, the same agency that enables us to trace, plan, and estimate, will enable us to carry out the work fully to the extent you propose. I think you had better leave the job to us for the present. However, when the traces, &c., are done, I may re-open the question if I see any way. Meanwhile, I have just proposed to transfer from other sanctions a sum of nearly Rupees 10,000, for opening between Kulputty and Mysore frontier, leaving the whole of the present allotment of Rupees 20,000 for Kennedy to spend between Kulputty and the Ghaut. I shall bind him down to open the roadway to a width of 12 feet for cart traffic and the expenditure on his bridge-work shall be dependent on that. But I will not check his bridge-work altogether. As to the work east of Kulputty, I shall encourage Mr. Nordman to get through what I can now get him as quickly as is consistent with good work, on the strength of my getting hold of other supplies later in the season.

2. I wish you would not go on as if the blasting on the Tambracherry Ghaut could not be done except by Sappers. It has been a great drawback to Kennedy's work that he has relied too exclusively on Sapper labor. It has prevented him seeking for blasters elsewhere. For my part, I am sick of the Sappers, and would not grieve if they were removed all but a Native officer's party. I just wish you knew what has been done in Coonoor Ghaut without them. I fear I shall not see Wynaad till November.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st October 1865.*

From Mr. J. BEAUMONT, to Lieut. Colonel G. W. WALKER, dated Kulputty, 29th September 1865.

I am unable to reconcile your letter of 16th instant with your previously expressed readiness to avail yourself of the services of Minchin and myself.

2. Our modification of offer was suggested by your assuring me at my house that your staff was sufficient for the work. Conceiving the great difference between your staff sufficing to trace, plan, and estimate, and for collecting coolies to cut out to 15 feet, say 35 miles of bandy road in twelve months, we confined our offer to the simple proposition of acting as your Cooly Contractors. You denominate our proposition (viz., to cut a 15 feet way) as a *scratch* road, and yet at the conclusion of the same, you write "I shall bind Kennedy down to open the roadway to a width of twelve feet for cart traffic," or three feet narrower than our scratch proposition!!!

3. Without venturing to question the ability of your staff to accomplish what we have proposed to do, I think that it will have to be considerably increased upon our line to accomplish what you have undertaken in rejecting our offer.

4. The best months are slipping away, and a little more delay will render your task absolutely impracticable.

5. Of all times labor at the present is most abundant; the season is most healthy, and yet not a sod will be turned for some time upon the portion from Kulputty to the frontier.

6. Mr. Nordman has one man trying a survey, and tells me that he cannot spare more.

No. 115. From Messrs. J. BEAUMONT and J. W. MINCHIN, Ootacamund; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ooty, 11th October 1865.

Referring to our recent interview with His Excellency Sir William Denison, upon the subject of the imperial line of road from Vythery (say from Coonote bridge) to the Mysore frontier, viâ Sultan's Battery, we have the honor to state, that we are prepared to enter into a contract with Government to trace and construct a fifteen feet wide cart-way for fine weather traffic over that distance, and shall have the honor of submitting for acceptance during the next few days a tender for the execution of the work.

2. In the meanwhile, that we may avail ourselves of the present fine season, we have the honor to offer to do the tracing of the whole line at an average rate of Rupees one hundred and fifty per mile, the trace to be passed and approved of by any officer whom His Excellency may appoint.

3. We have the honor to state that the rate quoted for tracing is the estimate given to us by the present Range officer of our District.

4. As bearing upon our construction of the line now under mention, we venture to suggest that it might be well (in order to avoid needless expenditure by the Public Works Department) to instruct Captain Kennedy to confine his operations "to the Tambracherry Ghaut side of the Coonote stream." With the sanction of Government, we are prepared at this date to place three competent tracers upon the line east of Coonote stream; and within fourteen days, we shall have the honor of submitting a tender for executing the whole work proposed to be carried out by the undersigned.

P. S.—We guarantee that the trace selected by us shall be the one most approved of by our District of South Wynaad.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st October 1865.*

No. 116. ORDER THEREON, 21st October 1865, No. 1101.

The Governor in Council will be prepared to entrust the construction of the projected road from the Coonote bridge near Vythry to the Mysore frontier, viâ Sultan's Battery, to Messrs. Beaumont and Minchin should the terms of the contract which they are about to submit be such as the Government can approve.

2. The task of selecting the line of road and constructing the trace will also be entrusted to Messrs. Beaumont and Minchin as representatives of the Planters of South Wynaad, and they will be paid for the trace at the rate specified in the foregoing letter, viz., Rupees 150 per mile.

3. By this arrangement the services of the officers of the Public Works Department will be made available for the supervision of the other important works now in progress in that Taluq, and the important line now under consideration will doubtless be constructed with greater rapidity than it could be by the limited agency which the Government have available. Captain Kennedy's duties will for the present be confined to the Tambracherry Ghaut, and to the line of road on that side of the Coonote stream.

(True Extract).

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.

„ Collector of Malabar.

To Messrs. Beaumont and Minchin.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

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8th
21st October 1865.

Order thereon 21st October 1865 N^o 1101

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Pub. Works Deptt.

Collector of Malabar.

Messrs Beaumont & Minchin

23/10

Handwritten notes at the top of the page, possibly "The Bank".

Geo. J. ...
Pub. Co.
1865. Department.

No. 101.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 21st Oct 1865.