

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

D Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2802

Press

~~Mis.~~

382.383

Dated

15 - 10 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th October 1866.

No. 382. Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 21st September 1866, No. 96:—

1. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Order of Government, dated 30th July 1866; No. 1,890, I beg to inform you that I communicated with Messrs. Vertue and Minchin at this station, the Secretaries of the Southern Wynaad Planters' Association, pointing out that Government considered that the Planters may be fairly expected, the Government having erected two new Chuttrums at Pykara and Neddivuttum, to provide the additional shelter required between the above-named places and between Pykara and Ootacamund for the coolies travelling between Wynaad and Ootacamund, and who are almost exclusively employed by the gentlemen engaged in planting.

2. Their reply is enclosed. It contains, somewhat in detail, a history of the intentions entertained, and endeavours made for some years past, in view to meeting the requirements for shelter for coolies along the above line of road.

3. The Secretaries state that the Planters are willing to assist in any measure for erecting buildings of refuge along the road, but, for the following reasons, they consider that the obligation to aid attaches to Government; first, that the line in question is and always has been the high road of the country between this place and stations below the Ghaut and on the Western Coast; second, that in the very position of their localities of cultivation, this same road could not be employed by them for any purposes of traffic, were it not that the condition of the public highways below the mountains is such that no wheeled conveyance can possibly travel along them; third, that the Government Chinchona plantations at Neddivuttum occupy no mean share in the traffic between the two points; and, lastly, that every facility of intercourse along this line tends to bring direct advantage to the Government, in creating a greater demand for the waste lands that it traverses, and the cultivation of which is an immediate benefit to the State.

4. With reference to the remark about the accommodation of convicts in the Pykara Chuttrum, I would observe that they were moved into Ootacamund, previous to the setting in of the south-west monsoon, and that the building was at the disposal of the coolies, and has been used by them without let or hinderance up to the present time. As at present informed, I have reason to believe that had it not been for the Pykara Chuttrum, the casualties among the coolies would have been greater, as several of them, who had been prostrated by the cold and wind, on reaching the building, recovered their strength, and were enabled to proceed on their journey.

No. 383. ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1866, No. 2,802.

Miscellaneous.

The Government consider that they have sufficiently fulfilled their obligations by constructing Chuttrums at Neddivuttum and Pykara. They are willing, however, to contribute a third part of the cost of constructing a Chuttrum

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th October 1866.

between those places, and one between the latter and Ooty, if the Planters' Association will provide the remaining two-thirds of the requisite funds. The sites must be approved by the Collector.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.
" the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Ootacamund
13th August 1866

P. Grant Esq
Collector of Coimbatore

Sir

We are desired by the Committee of the Planters Association of Southern India, to acknowledge receipt of your letter No 239 of 4th Inst, accompanied by extracts from orders of Government and your letter to the Board of Revenue - As it would almost seem under the tenor of the remarks in the Government order, that the Planting Community have hitherto remained passive in this particular question, we think it but right to submit to the Govt the following statement -

Dated
30 July 1866
No 1590

Prior to the construction of the Jomoor & Seegar Ghauts, the road between Neddiwum & this place, formed the concluding portion of the ~~road~~ high road from Madras to Ootacamund and, subsequent to the construction of these Ghauts, it was chiefly, or almost entirely, used as part of the public communication with Sultani's Battery, Maunatoddy & the Western Coast and as in fact it still remains, as evidenced by the trading travellers so frequently found upon it -

Coffee planting first commenced near Goodaloor in 1816/17, when the whole country was an almost unbroken jungle. From that time, an intercourse slight at first but gradually increasing, has been maintained between Neddiwum & Ootacamund

During the first ten years of this time, casualties did not occur as they have done within the last few years, so much from more inclemency of the weather as from the unfortunates

unfortunates being drowned ~~in~~ ^{on} the
on the line of road, that grew swollen during
monsoon, and which the chilling effects of the
weather rendered the victims unable to struggle
against. Temporary measures for their pro-
tection of travellers were adopted by planters
and Lord Harris' Government recognized the
necessity of bridging these dangerous streams
effectually, and orders to complete the work
were issued, under which stones were
collected, bricks burnt & chunam & sand
brought to the sites -

Meanwhile, at the desire of the
then Governor of Madras - Lord Harris, Mr
Orchertouy had, in March 1856, laid a
paper before his Lordship relative to a road
from Obucamund by Goodalwar and the
Beypoor River to the Western Coast - The project
was entertained and a trace ordered to be
made; and this was conducted at various
times, under the directions of Captain Shaw
Shewart, Capt Francis & Mr Fraser.

But an early interruption to the
work took place through the opposition of
local officers and Colonel Lawford was deputed
by Lord Harris to inspect and report espe-
cially upon the proposed road - His report
was so favorable that the work was ordered
to be proceeded with vigorously and in effect
the trace was carried nearly through and a
few miles made from the Obucamund end,
near the turning off of the Kvalanche road
when the setting in of the Monsoon put a stop
to work -

At this time, it had been de-
termined by certain planters to erect
mid-way sheds for the coolies; but when it
was found that Col Lawford, in the
circumstance

Circumstance of the ~~last~~ case where
obtained & Keddikuthum being ordered
to be carried out forthwith, had not only sus-
-pended the erection of the bridges over the
dangerous streams, as being unnecessary on a
road which was about to be abandoned but
had the chunnam collected on one spot, carried
away, they awaited the completion of the trace
in order that whatever was erected might be
stationed where it would be of real utility.

Before however the construction of the new road could be recommenced, the "Mutiny in India" arrested this in common with other public works; but the idea was never abandoned - On the contrary it has been adopted by the successive Governments, and a little done here and a little there, though it is now only that there is a prospect of its being carried out to completion -

When however the jurisdiction over the plateau of the Hills between the Pykara river and Neddiwuthum was transferred from Malabar to Coimbatore, the collector of the latter district proposed to the planters that if they would subscribe towards the erection of sheds for the protection of travellers in bad weather, he would undertake their construction in the facilities which his establishment enjoyed for this: It was readily assented to, and ten times the small subscription taken would have been given if needed - But the only erections put up, were alongside the bungalows at Neddiwuthum & Pykara and thus almost useless as shelters for shelter, for such were required between those bungalows and Pykara & Ottacamund -

And the same may be said of
the

the one at Neddikurthi has to be abandoned. Travellers going to the low country from the hills and to those who have ascended the Goodaloor ghaut; but that at Pykara has been more used for the purpose of a jail to house the convicts employed upon the road than any thing else, and as it has left the stretches from Neddikurthi to Pykara & from Pykara to Ottumman without any building of refuge from inclement weather, while the out-houses of the Bungalow at Pykara might have been availed of there for such a purpose it has been of comparatively little importance.

In the last dry season a subscription was entered into for the purpose of erecting midway Chutrooms - sufficient to serve as places of refuge but again was the difficulty encountered of deciding where to place them, in consequence of uncertainty as to whether or when the new road would be completed and a further delay was caused by a proposal to fit the buildings for the safe housing of convicts employed upon the road, which would have a more elaborate structure and considerable outlay - Thus the monsoon overtook the project - the result -

The above explanation has been entered into to show that there has been no backwardness on the part of Planters to assist in protecting travellers & coolies from the inclemency of bursts of monsoon weather on the exposed line of road between Neddikurthi & Ottumman. The real difficulty has been in its being uncertain

uncertain for the future, and when the old road would be at an end for the new trace and also where the new trace would actually run, for it is to be remembered that the road now under construction starts from a different point and deviates from the line that was adopted by Messrs Stewart, Francis & Fraser.

The planters will readily assent in any measure for erecting buildings of refuge along the high road between Neddikuthum & Obucumund but when it is apparently assumed that the duty should exclusively attach to them, they would with all respect beg of the Government to consider, 1st that the line in question is and always has been the high road of the country between this place and stations below the Ghaut and on the Western Coast; 2nd that in the very vicinity of their localities of cultivation, this same road could not be employed by them for any purposes of traffic - were it not that the condition of the public highways below the mountains is such that no wheel'd conveyance can possibly travel along them; 3d that the Government Cinchona plantations at Neddikuthum occupy no mean share in the traffic between the two points; and last that every facility of intercourse along this line tends to bring direct advantage to the Government, in creating a greater demand for the waste lands that it traverses and the cultivation of which is an immediate benefit to the State.

The Committee beg the favor of

of your interest
Government and

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedt servants

Vertue Minchin & Co

Secretaries

Planters Association of

Southern India

The sum of \$1000
 for the purchase of
 land for the purpose of
 building a school house
 at the place known as
 the "Old Mill" in the
 town of ...
 and for the purchase of
 land for the purpose of
 building a school house
 at the place known as
 the "Old Mill" in the
 town of ...

18th Sept
 Received from the
 Boston School Board
 the sum of \$1000
 for the purchase of
 land for the purpose of
 building a school house
 at the place known as
 the "Old Mill" in the
 town of ...
 and for the purchase of
 land for the purpose of
 building a school house
 at the place known as
 the "Old Mill" in the
 town of ...

88-2802. (9)

The prot. consider that
 they have sufficiently
 met full filled their
 obligations by constructing
 Churtrains at Red di-
 viduals & Py Kara
 They are willing however
 to contribute to a 3^d part
 of the cost of constructing
 a Churtrain between these places
 and one between the latter and
 Py if the Charter Association
 will provide the remaining
 2/3rd of the uperite funds.
 The title must be obtained
 by the Club
 The Club

Copy sent to ...
 15th Oct 1888

15th Oct 1888

Pro 30 July/66 A-560-1

1866 Rec^d ^{Sept} ^{Oct}
P^{ost} of Govt ³³⁹⁴

The Collecting
of Commodities
to
The Secretary to Govt
M.D.

Dated 21st }
Received } September
1866

No 96
With the enclosure
Submits a letter
from the Secretaries of the
Southern Rygrad Planters
Association on the
Construction of a station
at Shell in the road
between Redwood and
and Orlanum.

Form of Nov 11, 1867
O.P.S.

A. 382 & 383

1st 2802-15 Cetr
for C. M. A.

With order
No 101, 102, 103