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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1960	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	7.4.1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1460

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
24th March 1877. No. 1,014.

No. 619. Read the following letter from W. S. HARINGTON, Esq., District Engineer, Madura, to the Acting Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Buildings, and Roads Branch, dated Dindigul, 7th March 1877, No. 4,799 :—

I HAVE the honor to forward, for your information, copy of a letter from the Executive Engineer on special duty, No. 196 of the 2nd instant, explaining the delay in submitting the estimate called for in G.O., No. 3,081, dated the 18th November last, and to request that his application for funds, as contained in paragraph 10, may be favorably entertained by you.

From Lieutenant-Colonel G. V. LAW, Special Executive Engineer, to W. S. HARINGTON, Esq., District Engineer, Madura, dated Lower Pulneys, 2nd March 1877, No. 196.

WITH reference to G.O., 9th February 1877, No. 462, I have the honor to request you to be kind enough to bring to the notice of Government the reasons that no steps have been taken to prepare the estimate therein called for, and my request to be allowed a few weeks' grace before undertaking the same.

2. I received the order to prepare the estimate (G.O., 18th November 1876, No. 3,081) whilst absent on privilege leave, and since my return have been fully occupied in carrying out paragraph 2 thereof, and have completed the trace of the new Kodakanel Ghaut from the 16th mile to the foot without a zigzag. The whole ghaut line has, therefore, only one zig at the third milestone from Kodakanel, as heretofore reported.

3. Commencing from the 16th mile, I revised last year's traces, and, after a few trial traces, completed a favorable trace of easy gradients past the Punnikad Ghaut and through the Umbahvy valley to its mouth, 22nd to 23rd mile.

4. The whole drainage of the Umbahvy valley falls through a very narrow gorge, precipices concealed by trees and thorny creepers, and ground too steep to stand on without holding; trial trace after trial trace failed, and I nearly despaired of getting through. I finally secured a practicable line by running about a mile of 1 in 16 downwards, followed by $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile of level and about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile reverse slope (upwards) and a short level run.

5. I then obtained a practicable run downwards, 1 in 19, till within a mile of the foot, when I was again stopped by precipices rising tier over tier. I finally worked out a practicable line with levels, 1 in 28, and one short reverse slope of 1 in 19, after which a steady 1 in 19 "downwards" to the foot.

6. The foot of the ghaut strikes the plains about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of Davadanaputty and about 4 miles north-west of Batlagoonda, and I estimate its length at about 28 miles, of which 20 miles are easy as regards both gradients and opening.

7. The work has been the most arduous I have ever undertaken. The last running water was passed at the 16th mile post, and at the 21st and 23rd I could only obtain a scanty supply from holes dug in the nullahs; below that, till the river in the plains, not a drop, but what the tracing party carried with them, and during the last few weeks we were out from 10 to 13 hours daily, obliged to trace during the hottest hours of the day, the twilight and cool hours of the day being past in scrambling to and returning from the line of pegs, and the long distance we had to go to get out of fever range.

8. For some time after my return laborers were very scarce, deterred by want of water and fear of fever; my presence in the valley seems, however, to have reassured them, and by the middle of February I had 140 at work in the Umbahvy valley and have opened the bridle-path to 23rd mile. I have now been obliged to transfer almost all to the plains, from whence

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
24th March 1877. No. 1,014.*

the last few miles can alone be opened, and have arranged for the carriage of water from the river below to the work spot.

9. The only member of my office who can help me with the survey is now opening the foot of the ghaut, and it will take me another fortnight to get the line cleared sufficiently for measurements, lay out the large nullah crossings, and get as much done as possible before the deadly fever season sets in. It is only a question of a few weeks, and then I shall have ample leisure for the survey and estimate.

10. In conclusion, I have the honor to request that a few thousands of Rupees may be placed at my disposal during April and May for working the upper sections of the ghaut in anticipation of the survey and estimate. I expect within the current month to work out all but a few hundreds of the original allotments.

No. 620.

ORDER THEREON, 24th March 1877, No. 1,014.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 55.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council learns with satisfaction that Lieutenant-Colonel Law has completed the trace of the new ghaut to Kodakanel on the Pulney Hills; he records with pleasure the success that has attended Lieutenant-Colonel Law's persevering and laborious exertions; and desires to be conveyed to that officer his appreciation of the skill with which he has in the intricate and difficult country he had to deal with accomplished the work entrusted to him.

2. Under the circumstances reported, His Grace the Governor in Council sanctions the work being continued during the next official year, in the out-going budget of which funds have been provided for the new Pulney Ghaut. He desires, however, that the expenditure shall, in the first instance, be confined to thoroughly lock-spitting the trace, so that none of it may be lost, and opening it to bridle-path one yard out of the solid throughout. And he looks to Lieutenant-Colonel Law using his best endeavours to supply the surveys and estimate, &c., called for in G.O., No. 3,081, of 18th November 1876, as early as practicable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. FAREWELL, Colonel,
Acting Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Buildings and Roads Branch.

To the District Engineer, Madura.
" Financial Department.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Ed. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

Order in the Financial Department 5 April 1877 F. 1153

*Communicated to the Collector of
Madura and to the Revenue Department*

(True Extract)

*J. Hurwath
Under Secretary*

*To
The Collector of Madura
Revenue Department.*

Rev: Dept
no 2043
Gobi. of 11877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
MADURA.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 24th.

Issued

Recd. 6 April

Encl.

G. O., 24th March 1877, No. 1,014.

Do Madras
MARCH

Nos. 619-620.

New Pulney Ghaut, Madura District.—
Recording with satisfaction Lieutenant-
Colonel Law's report of the completion of
the trace of the — to Kodakanel on the
Pulney Hills, and directing the continuance
of the work during the next official year,
funds being provided for the purpose in the
out-going budget.

no 1960.

Consr. to the
Board of Revenue
7 April 77.

1. To the W. of Revenue 9-4-77