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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No: 4661	Press. / ~~Mis.~~
Dated 17.8.1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

3rd August 1877, No. 282 R.

Railway.

Read the following paper :—

No. 23. Endorsement of the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 27th July 1877, No. 375.

From W. S. BETTS, Esq., Agent of the South Indian Railway, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Negapatam, 25th July 1877, No. 3,679.

I HAVE the honor to forward for your information copy of a report* which has been received from the Chief Engineer regarding the progress of the earth-works on the Chingleput-Conjeveram Section.

*No. C 1,151/815, dated 23rd July 1877.

From D. LOGAN, Esq., Chief Engineer, to W. S. BETTS, Esq., Agent, South Indian Railway Company, dated Trichinopoly, 23rd July 1877, No. C 1,151/815.

IN continuation of my No. 973/762 of 17th instant, it may interest you to learn the present state of the works on the Conjeveram-Chingleput line, and I send you some extracts from the latest reports from the Engineer in immediate charge on the ground.

"The earthwork on the section is making fair progress. The measurement up to the 7th instant shows that 186,676 cubic yards have been executed, out of a total estimate of 350,000 cubic yards. At Conjeveram the work is in progress on a length of 8 miles, *i.e.*, between the junction with Arconum line and Wallajabad. About 5 miles of the lower portion of embankment are completed and the rest are well forward. The embankment is well constructed and has been carried up in regular layers. Work has been commenced in the large cutting at Wallajabad. A trial pit has been sunk to a depth of 10 feet (*i.e.*, to formation) in the centre of the cutting. It shows the first 2 feet to be of the ordinary red soil of the neighbourhood, the 8 feet below is of soft morum rock got easily with the pickaxe especially when wetted and will do well for ballast. I do not think hard rock will be come upon in the cutting; there may be a few boulders and nothing more. At Chingleput the work is in progress on the first 3½ miles up to Ahtoor village. One mile of the lower portion of embankment is finished and the rest is well forward.

"I am doing my best to get as much work as possible out of the laborers by increasing the pay of those maistries and coolies who show good work, and dismissing those (maistries) who do not; I have made three grades of maistries at Rupees 7, 9 and 10 per mensem respectively, and reward the head coolies with two extra tickets at the end of the week. The coolies are in a very pitiable condition and by far the greater number are unfit for task or piece work of any sort.

"The price of rice has risen again both here and at Conjeveram, and there is a great outcry amongst the laborers that they are unable to live on the present wages. I think some increase should be made in the rates otherwise there will be a great increase in the mortality.

"Relief is being given to the starving children by distributing boiled rice amongst them once a day. I send herewith returns showing the number fed, cost, &c., up to 30th June. There were thousands of starving children on the works, and, if relief had not been given, the mortality would have been very great.

"The feeding arrangements are in charge of the Apothecaries. There is considerable mortality at Chingleput from diarrhœa; this does not seem so prevalent at Conjeveram, where however there has been a slight outbreak of cholera among the coolies, which still continues, though not on the increase apparently. A cholera shed has been erected on the waterspread, the large tank near Conjeveram and there are generally from four to five cases under treatment there."

With reference to the rates, we have been paying—

	RS.	A.	P.	
Head coolies	0	2	6	per diem,
Men	0	2	0	„ „
Women ... ...*	0	1	3	„ „
Boys and girls	0	0	6	„ „

and on Mr. Hemans' recommendation I have authorized a rise in the rates for—

	RS.	A.	P.
Men to	0	2	4
Women to „	0	1	8
Head coolies to	0	2	10

I found during my last inspection so many children lying about on the works in a state of great neglect while the parents were at work that I directed Mr. Hemans to start a few sheds here and there under which the very young could be sheltered from the weather, especially the fierce direct rays of the sun, the sheds to be taken charge of by some of the women under the inspection of the Apothecaries. It is to this that the tabular* return refers, and I trust that it will not be considered that I have exceeded my province in making this slight provision for the small children, the majority of whom would otherwise certainly have perished.

* Received with Mr. Hemans' No. 247 of 16th July 1877.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT, FAMINE RELIEF WORKS, CONJEVERAM SECTION.

Tubular Statement showing the number of Children fed and rice boiled for each day from 26th June 1877.

Month.	Date.	No. of Children fed daily.	Quantity raw rice boiled daily.	Value.	Quantity of rice boiled in Ounces.	Quantity given to each child.	Remarks.
			MEASURES.	RS. A. P.			
June ..	26th	167	5	1 4 0	400	About 4½ ounces each.	Issued by Inspector Hayes.
Do. ..	27th	374	15	3 12 0	1,200		Issued by Inspector Hayes, Loulie, Rabel only.
Do. ...	28th	357	20	5 0 0	1,600		Issued by Inspector Hayes, Loulie, Rabel, and Theroovengadasawmy Doss.
Do. ...	29th	556	40	10 0 0	3,200		Issued by Inspector Hayes, Loulie, Mooregesa, and Theroovengadasawmy Doss.
Do. ...	30th	675	40	10 0 0	3,200		Issued by Inspector Hayes, Loulie, Rabel, Mooregesa and Theroovengadasawmy Doss.

CONJEVERAM,
4th July 1877.

(Signed) E. ATKINSON,
Apothecary, S I.R.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

No. 24. ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1877, No. 282 R.

THE position of the cholera shed, described as "on the waterspread of the large tank near Conjeveram," seems open to objection.

2. The number of coolies at work should have been stated in the report.

3. With reference to the alleged insufficiency of the wages, the Agent's attention will be drawn to the Government scale for relief labour, which it is understood has already been communicated to him.

(True Extract.)

V. Chamberlain

Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Railway Branch.

N 2661.

17 August.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

" " Rev: Dept. Famine

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
10 Spare Copies

Rec. 1877 Dept
F.No. 6625

RAILWAY.

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE CONSULTING ENGINEER
FOR RAILWAYS.

Dated August 3rd.

Issued

Rcd. 15/8/77 Encl.

G. O., 3rd August 1877, No. 282 R.

AUGUST.

Nos. 2324.

Mis 4017 August 1877 No 4661

Chingleput-Conjeeram Section, South Indian Railway.—Orders on correspondence reporting the progress of the earthworks to date.