M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 258 Press Mis.

508-509

Dated 25—Co—1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 508. Read the following letter from the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 11th October 1867, No. 279 :—

1. Adverting to the instructions contained in paragraph 2 of G. O. dated the 14th ultimo, No. 2,853, I have the honor to submit to Government a correspondence* which has passed between this Office and the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, regarding the rate proposed to be charged for the conveyance of laterite from Tanjore to Nidamungalum.

* In original to be returned.

2. I am still of opinion that it might tend indirectly to the interests of the Company to reduce the rate quoted by Mr. Betts, viz., Rupees 4 for five cubic yards, but I cannot say that his offer is in any way an illiberal one. On the contrary, as shewn in his letter, the rate will barely cover the necessary working expenses.

3. I am in possession of no information besides that quoted in the enclosed correspondence, regarding the proposed tramway between Combaconum and Nidamungalum.

From the Deputy Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Agent and Traffic Manager of the Great Southern of India Railway, dated Madras, 21st September 1867, No. 126.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to state the rates at which you are willing to load laterite from Tanjore to Nidamungalum. I beg to remind you that the District Road Fund is of the nature of the Municipal Fund, contributed by the people for the improvement and maintenance of the roads in the locality, the effective administration of which cannot fail to re-act very favorably on the Railway traffic, and that a more or less favorable rate for running road-metal over the line will materially promote or hinder the attainment of the object in view. The demand for carriage for this purpose is likely to be large and constant for many years, and a favorable contract rate would probably prove very remunerative to the Company.

From the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Negapatam, 23rd September 1867, No. 2,407.

1. I have received communications from both the Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division and the Collector of Tanjore, on the subject named in your letter No. 126 of the 21st instant, and have offered to convey laterite from Tanjore to Nidamungalum in full train loads at fixed hours for Rupees 4 per truck of five cubic yards, the ordinary rate being Rupees 7½.

2. Lately another point has been raised, viz., the advisability of making a tramway between Combaconum and Nidamungalum, rather than incur the heavy expense of metalling and maintaining a road, and I am now in correspondence with the Collector thereon.

From the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Agent and Traffic Manager of the Great Southern of India Railway, dated Madras, 2nd October 1867, No. 137.

1. In acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated the 23rd ultimo, No. 2,407, I have the honor to solicit your special attention to the important influence which the early completion of the roads in question can hardly fail to exercise upon the traffic of the Great Southern Railway.

2. You are doubtless aware that the cost of these roads is not to be borne by the Imperial exchequer, but will be met from funds contributed by the inhabitants themselves, and necessarily limited in amount. The economical expenditure of these funds is of course an object of great importance, and the rate quoted in your letter under reply, though considerably below what is generally charged, is, in my opinion, so high as to prevent the local authorities from availing themselves of the Railway to the extent which is so clearly desirable.

3. Looking to the fact that the cheapest vehicles will be used for the purpose, that the laterite will be conveyed at the convenience of the Company, and that the loading and unloading

will be performed by those who require the material, it seems to me that, with every advantage to the Company's interests, a lower rate than that quoted by you might be specially fixed in this instance, and I therefore request that you will favor me by re-considering the matter, and informing me as soon as possible whether you are disposed to agree with me.

From the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Negapatam, 7th October 1867, No. 2,423.

1. Your letter No. 137, of the 2nd instant, has again brought under my notice the rate quoted for the conveyance from Tanjore of laterite proposed to be used on the road leading from Nidamungalum to Combaconum.

2. This traffic would have to be worked by special trains, and the trucks must run empty in one direction. The receipts per train mile (at the rate of Rupees 4 per truck) would amount to Annas 20-8. Upon referring to the Revenue Balance Sheet, which I sent to you a short time since, you will see that our working expenses last half-year were at the rate of Annas 20-3 per train mile; during the current half-year they will be much higher. I cannot afford to quote a lower rate than Rupees 4 per truck; it is really a very liberal offer.

3. The *Railway* charge per cubic yard of laterite, you will find, is very small indeed compared with the cost of conveyance by road from Nidamungalum; the heavy charge is under the latter head.

4. The subscribers to the Road Cess Fund, rather than incur the expense of metalling the road between Nidamungalum and Combaconum, would infinitely prefer to see their money applied to uphold a light railway between those towns. The road already exists as a railway-feeder, the metalling of it would not, I fear, reduce the cost to the people of bandy-hire. The traffic from Combaconum to Tanjore would still find its way by the Paupanassam road, whereas a light railway would draw all the traffic referred to over it. Travellers would know that the loss of time and trouble they now so frequently experience in engaging bandies would then cease to exist. It now costs a traveller one Rupee and a quarter for his transit from Nidamungalum to Combaconum, the light railway would take him for six or seven Annas.

Transferred to the Revenue Department, with reference to the Orders in that Department of the 10th ultimo, No. 2,122.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

14th October 1867.

No. 509. ORDER THEREON, 25th October 1867, No. 2,518.

Local Funds, No. 22.
Account.

1. Communicated to the Board of Revenue, with reference to G. O. dated 10th September 1867, No. 2,122, Revenue Department.

2. The rate of 4 Rupees for five cubic yards of laterite metal carried by rail from Tanjore to Nidamungalum may be accepted, if the project of metalling the cart road from Nidamungalum to Combaconum be not superseded by that for constructing a tramway which appears to be under discussion.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2518.

Comm[unicated] to the Bd. of Rev[enue] & Public Wks. Dep[artment] by G.O. No. 2122 - 10 Sept.

The rate of 4 Rs. for 5 Cubic yards of laterite metal carried by rail from Tanjore to Nidamungalum may be accepted if the project of metalling the Cart Road from Nidamungalum to Combaconum be not superseded by that for constructing a Tramway which appears to be under discussion

25th Oct. 67

4 Copies to Bd of Rev Dep[t] 28
21 Public Wks Dep[t]

Rec'd 10 Septr 67 N° 1558-15
Pub 14 " " " 360-361.

Transferred to the Rev Dept, with reference to the orders in that Dept of the 10th Ultimo, No 2122

Colonel - RE
Secy to Govt

14th Octr 67 —

N°s 508 & 509

Rec'd 14th October 1867
Registered 14 October
N° 2757 of 3095

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

From

The Consulting Engineer
for Railways,

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Fort Saint George.

Pro of the Board of Rev 18 Sept 68 N° 2037.

Dated 11th
Received 14th } October 1867.

Encl 4 Nos 2758 with 4 Encls
Encl 2560-2561 Copies

Submitting correspondence regarding the rate proposed to be charged for the conveyance of Laterite from Loyola to Kedumangulum.

Transferred