

PUBLIC WORKS (INDIA).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 15 April 1853;—for,

A RETURN "of all SUMS spent on PUBLIC WORKS (not of a Military kind) in *India*, since April 1834, keeping distinct the Amounts spent on the REPAIRS of OLD, and on the CONSTRUCTION of NEW WORKS, together with the Objects of the Works newly Constructed; and stating, when remunerative, the Amounts received from such Works."

East India House, }
17 August 1853. }

JAMES C. MELVILLE

(*Mr. Bright.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
20 August 1853.

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MEMORANDUM.

Para. 1. THE Papers Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of the following list of contents will explain the impossibility of a Return being prepared for the exact period embraced, or in the precise form prescribed in the Order of the Honourable the House of Commons.

2. In the printed Return to the Order of the Honourable the House of Commons, dated 4th March 1850, No. 622 of 1831, has been given,

FOR BENGAL.

The particulars of and total expenditure on Public Works in the Civil Department from season 1839-40 to 1848-9 inclusive.

FOR FORT ST. GEORGE.

A digest of a general Report by the Superintendent of Roads, dated the 9th August 1848, on the Road Department, from its establishment to the 1st May 1848; also information in regard to district roads, with a statement of the charges incurred for the years 1838 to 1847 inclusive.

FOR BOMBAY.

As regards the Presidency of Bombay, it was pointed out that a "Return to an Order of the Honourable the House of Commons, dated the 20th December 1847, was presented on the 7th February 1848, which Return contained copy of the annual Reports of the Superintendent of Roads and Tanks within the Presidency of Bombay from the first (viz., that for season 1835-36) to the latest received to that time, or to season 1844-45 inclusive." The Reports for season 1845-46 and 1846-47 formed part of the Return No. 622 of 1851. Page 166 of the Return.

3. The whole of the further information which can be supplied from the Reports received in continuation of the foregoing is contained in the present Return, and includes, as regards the Presidency of

BENGAL,

An analysis of a Report of the Military Board, dated the 8th September 1840, setting forth in a tabular form, and in alphabetical arrangement, all the information which the Government of Bengal could obtain on Public Works under the Military Board's general management at the time that the systematic preparation and printing of that Board's annual Reports was first ordered; also a statement compiled from the Reports of the Bengal Military Board for the official year 1849-50 and 1850-51, in continuation of and embodied with the previous statement for the official years 1839-40 to 1848-49.

FORT ST. GEORGE.

A digest of a further Report by the late Superintendent of Roads, dated the 17th October 1851, being in continuation of that dated 9th August 1848, giving information on the works in progress to the 1st May 1851; also a statement of the more important works executed under the Civil Engineer Department for 1848 and 1849, and of expenditure in the Civil Department of Public Works for the years 1848, 1849, and 1850.

BOMBAY.

[Particulars of the formation of the Road and Tank Department in 1836; together with a tabular statement of the principal works executed by that department from its formation to the year 1850-51 inclusive, and a statement of expenditure compiled from the annual Reports of the Superintendent of Roads and Tanks, and of the Bombay Engineers.]

RETURNS to an Order of the Honourable the House of Commons, dated the 24th February 1853, for "Copies of the Reports of the several Commissioners on Public Works at Bengal, Madras, and Bombay in the year 1851-52; of the Minutes of the Members of the Government thereon; and of any Orders or Despatches of the Court of Directors relating thereto," were presented to the Honourable the House of Commons on the 26th April 1853, for the Presidencies of Bengal and Fort St. George. The Return for the Presidency of Bombay will be presented on the meeting of Parliament in 1854.

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East India House,
17 August 1853. }

T. L. Peacock,
Examiner of India Correspondence.

Note:—The Statements for the Presidency of Bengal for the series of years from 1839-40 to 1850-51 inclusive, and for the Presidency of Bombay, are arranged alphabetically. The preliminary Statement of the Military Board at Bengal, dated the 8th September 1840, and the Statements relating to works executed by the Civil Engineer's Department for the years 1848 and 1849, are preceded by an Index.

A P P E N D I X.

APPENDIX No. 1.

GANGES CANAL.

India Revenue Despatch, 21 December (No. 17) 1847.

Our Governor-General of India in Council.

1. We have received two letters from our Governor-general, dated 3d and 20th September last (Nos. 16 and 17), transmitting further proceedings relative to the Ganges Canal, consequent on the receipt of our despatch of the 7th July (No. 9) 1847. Ganges Canal.

2. His Lordship had communicated extracts of that despatch to Major Baker, director of the canal, and to Lieutenant-colonel Abbott, Superintending Engineer in the North-Western Provinces, and now forwards copies of the observations which they have submitted to him.

3. Major Baker is of opinion that the estimate of 93 lacs, as given by Major Cautley, is not likely to be exceeded beyond the sum of four lacs, which he considers will be required to give greater strength to the works of the Solani Aqueduct. The period within which the whole work can be completed will be regulated by that occupied in the construction of the aqueduct, and he is confident that this may be accomplished within six years. Lieutenant-colonel Abbott confirms Major Baker's opinion with regard to the Solani Aqueduct, adding a recommendation for increasing the strength of some of the abutments, which it appears Major Baker had already effected by an alteration in Major Cautley's original plans.

4. With respect to the expediency of making the canal subservient to purposes of navigation, Major Baker estimates the total additional expense which will have to be incurred for that object, at 2,23,770 rupees. He says, "It has been shown in reports already before Government, that the navigation of the Ganges below Cawnpore will not be impaired by the abstraction of the canal supply at Hardwar, but that during a few months of the year some hinderance may occur in the higher course of the river. The inconvenience thus arising would be practically small, and is easily remediable by the substitution of a safe and expeditious route for the tedious, and often dangerous, passage now afforded by the river." Major Baker adds, "The sum of money which might be saved by leaving navigation entirely out of account, is thus seen to bear a small proportion to the whole estimate, and the additional expenditure of 2½ lacs will be well bestowed on the provision of a navigable communication through the centre of the Doab, especially as the river steamers will be enabled to approach by the Jumna to the canal terminus, and there to deliver their freight at once into the canal boats."

5. Major Baker estimates the net revenue from the canal at 10 lacs, or 10 per cent. on the outlay, observing that "the rates of irrigation rent have been purposely fixed below the real value of the water, and therefore that the amount of direct revenue cannot be looked upon as a fair measure of the work of the canal."

6. The Governor-general informs us that he has applied to the President in Council for the services of Mr. Simms, the civil engineer, being of opinion that "it will be satisfactory to all parties that this gentleman should in person make an inspection of the Solani Aqueduct, assuming that his experience in this description of work justifies the reference."

7. We shall be glad to be furnished with Mr. Simms's opinion with regard to the Solani Aqueduct, and he may also be able to afford information respecting the suggestion of Lieutenant-colonel Abbott, for the construction of galvanic telegraphs on the line of the canal, "so that in case of accident at any part of the works the immense flow of water might be instantly stopped, and let off at the places prepared for its escape."

8. We trust that the Earl of Dalhousie will apply himself to the consideration of the question in all its bearings, with the same zeal and judgment which have been evinced by his predecessor in the Government of India.

We are, &c.

London, 21 December 1847.

(signed) *H. S. G. Tucker.*
J. L. Lushington,
&c. &c.

India Revenue Despatch, 2 June (No. 11) 1852.

Our Governor-General of India in Council.

1. WITH his letter dated 28th July last (No. 1), our Governor-general has forwarded to us a revised estimate, prepared by Lieutenant-colonel Cautley, of the probable expense to be incurred in constructing the Ganges Canal works. His Lordship observes, that although the increase of cost which is contemplated in this estimate is undoubtedly large, he conceives that Lieutenant-colonel Cautley has satisfactorily accounted for it in the paper submitted by him to Government, and he accordingly trusts that we shall see cause to bestow our approval on what has already been done, and to give our sanction to the revised estimate now submitted.

2. The former estimate, as sanctioned in our despatch of the 7th July (No. 9) 1847, amounted to 93,39,746 rupees. In the estimate now before us the probable cost (including establishment and current repairs, which were omitted in the former one,) is given at 1,55,55,481 rupees. Of this sum the total amount actually expended up to the 30th April 1851 is stated to be 72,45,560 rupees.

3. This estimate has been prepared under instructions dated the 12th June 1850, addressed to Lieutenant-colonel Cautley by the Lieutenant-governor, who observed that it had occurred to him that sufficient progress had then been made in the construction of the Ganges Canal to enable a proximate estimate of its entire cost to be formed. "It is obvious," he remarked, "that in all great undertakings of this nature, the first estimate of the cost can only be a rough approximation towards the truth. It is impossible to foresee all the difficulties that arise from a new and large demand for labour and materials, which have hitherto been required only in small quantities or at places favourable for their production. It is also well known that during the progress of this, as of all other similarly large undertakings, important modifications of the original plan suggest themselves, which, though at first more expensive, add greatly to the stability and efficiency of the work, and will save future expense.

"But it is of importance that the earliest possible period should be seized for correcting the unavoidable errors of the first estimate, and for accurately appreciating the real expenditure involved in the undertaking. It is believed that

that this period has now arrived in the progress of your works on the Ganges Canal, and that you will find little difficulty in forming a revised estimate of the whole, which will be a near approximation to the truth."

4. The causes which have led to the increase in the estimated cost of the canal are given in detail in Lieutenant-colonel Cautley's report, and are briefly summed up as follows :

"There are three points which have greatly influenced the designs of the works now estimated for; viz. :

1st. "The results of the proceedings of a medical committee, which determined that the high-water mark of the canal should be kept as much as possible below the surface of the country.

2d. "The results of excavation in the upper division, showing that the subsoil only was clay, with an uninterrupted substratum of sand.

3d. "The change of design in the distribution of the supply below the 110th mile, which, in connexion with the results above referred to, have in fact led, with few exceptions, to the total reprojecting, not only of the masonry works, but of the capacity of the canal channel.

"In referring, therefore, to the papers already printed, the present may rather be considered a fourth in succession to the three projects formerly submitted, than a revised estimate of what has gone before."

5. The excess of the revised over the original estimate is doubtless large, but considering that the latter was framed on data which were necessarily, to a great extent, imperfect or conjectural, we agree in the opinion expressed by the Governor-general, that Lieutenant-colonel Cautley has satisfactorily accounted for it. With full confidence, accordingly, in the zeal, ability, and high professional attainments of that distinguished officer, we give our sanction to the revised estimate now submitted to us, and we trust that every means will be taken for carrying on the construction of the canal with all practicable speed.

6. We take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of the letters and paragraphs referred to in the margin,* by which we have been kept informed of

- * India Revenue Letter, 26th June (No. 6) 1847, paras. 24, 25.
 India Revenue Letter (Governor-general's), 6th December (No. 25) 1847, whole.
 India Revenue Letter, 24th December (No. 21), whole.
 Bengal Military Letter, 17th March (No. 36) 1848, p. 111 to 114.
 Bengal Military Letter, 14th July (No. 110) 1848, p. 43 and 90.
 India Public Letter, 14th August (No. 41) 1848, paras. 16 and 19.
 India Revenue Letter (Governor-general's), 17th November (No. 4) 1849, whole.
 Bengal Military Letter, 19th November (No. 185) 1850, p. 45, 46.
 India Foreign Letter (Governor-general's), 26th February (No. 14) 1851, whole.
 Bengal Military Letter, 26th September (No. 152) 1851, para. 38.
 India Public Letter, 28th November (No. 37) 1851, para. 32.
 Agra Revenue Narrative, 15th March (No. 1) 1847, paras. 12 to 46.
 Agra Revenue Narrative, 12th May (No. 2) 1847, paras. 11 to 42.

Agra Revenue Narrative, dated—

29th June (No. 3) 1847	- p. 13 to 38	10th October (No. 3) 1849	- p. 17 to 38
15th October (No. 4) "	- p. 8 to 47	26th December (No. 4) "	- p. 23 to 42
20th December (No. 5) "	- p. 22 to 52	27th April (No. 1) 1850	- p. 18 to 45
16th February (No. 1) 1848	- p. 14 to 38	15th June (No. 2) "	- p. 21 to 59
30th May (No. 2) "	- p. 15 to 46	16th September (No. 3) "	- p. 23 to 61
24th October (No. 3) "	- p. 22 to 70	13th November (No. 4) "	- p. 21 to 51
30th December (No. 4) "	- p. 41 to 85	11th April (No. 1) 1851	- p. 20 to 62
10th May (No. 1) 1849	- p. 22 to 53	29th July (No. 2) "	- p. 23 to 66
9th July (No. 2) "	- p. 18 to 43		

of the details of progress in the works of the Ganges Canal, and of other less important works of irrigation and drainage in the North-Western Provinces. It does not appear to us that they contain any particular points on which our observations are required, but we cannot pass them over without expressing our gratification at the evidence they offer of the zealous services rendered by the late and present Governors-general, no less than by the Lieutenant-governor, in the efficient prosecution of these important works, in which the best interests of the country are involved, and which has been ably and actively responded to by the officers of all grades attached to the Canal Department.

London, 2 June 1852.

We are, &c.
(signed) *J. W. Hogg.*
R. Ellice,
&c. &c.

ROADS in the PUNJAB.

India Public Despatch, 4 August (No. 30) 1852.

Our Governor-General of India in Council.

Foreign letters from the Government of India, dated 7th December (No. 29) 1850, paras. 232 A, and 247; 7th March (No. 10) 1851, para. 190; 7th November (No. 34), para. 83.

Foreign letters from the Governor-general, dated 18th January (No. 4) 1851; 5th April (No. 26) 1851.

1. We now reply to the letters and paragraphs noted in the margin, relating to the construction of various lines of road in the Punjab, the expense of which will be chargeable to the five lacs of rupees annually set apart under our sanction for public improvements in that territory.
2. The following are the works which, as here reported, have received your sanction: 1st. A fair-weather road from Lahore to Mooltan, the cost of which, at 200 rupees per mile for 224 miles, is estimated at 44,800 rupees. 2d. A road from Dera Ismael Khan to Shahpooor, a distance of 104 miles, the formation of which for ordinary traffic, with the necessary wells, is estimated to cost 3,000 rupees.
- 3d. A good but unmetalled road from Sheikapooora (between which place and Lahore a road was previously in course of construction) to meet the above road at Shahpooor, and thus complete the communication between Lahore and Dera Ismael Khan. The distance is 100 miles, and the estimated cost, including all expenses, is Rs. 21,651. 4.
- 4th. Two roads, from Mozuffurgurh, in the Khangurh district, one to Mooltan, a distance of 13 miles, and the other to Dera Ghazee Khan, a distance of 20 miles, at a cost of 1,000 rupees.
- 5th. The completion, as a second class road, of a line on which 20,000 rupees have already been expended, from Rawul Pindee to Kalabagh on the Indus; the distance is 107 miles, and the additional expenditure was estimated at 13,775 rupees.
3. All these lines of road are severally recommended by their greater or less importance in a military, a political, or a commercial point of view, and we approve the sanction given to their formation.
4. The most important work referred to in the letters under reply is, the proposed new road from Lahore to Peshawur, the formation of which was recognised in our despatch in the Revenue Department, dated the 5th December 1849, as a highly desirable object. The Governor-general has now forwarded to us plans and estimates for the construction of this road, to which he requests our sanction;

tion; and, pending the receipt of our orders, his Lordship has authorised the commencement of operations and an advance of 3,00,000 rupees for the needful preliminary expenses.

5. The proposed line has been carefully surveyed by Lieutenant Tayler, the executive officer, with the personal assistance, in some parts, of Lieutenant-colonel Napier; and while it adheres generally to the direction of the existing road, deviates from it in those places where a more favourable course could be selected. It is proposed that the road shall be of the width of 40 feet; that it shall be metalled throughout; that the numerous small rivers and nullahs shall be crossed by timber bridges; and that across the four great rivers, the Ravee, the Chenab, the Jelum, and the Indus, bridges of boats shall be thrown, which, in the case of the last, will be maintained throughout the year, while those over the other rivers will, during the rainy season, be disconnected, and the boats used for the purposes of a ferry.

6. The length of the road will be 275 miles, and the estimated cost, including the floating bridges and establishment and superintendence for two and a half years, is *Rs.* 15,48,841. 2.

7. We concur with the Governor-general in regarding the formation of an efficient road to Peshawur as a work not simply of importance, but of absolute necessity. It is most desirable for military purposes that the road should be passable at all seasons, and that there should be no danger of a stoppage at any point. On these grounds it is necessary that the road should be metalled, and that adequate means of crossing the great rivers on the line should be constantly kept up. We accordingly give our sanction to the entire scheme for the formation of the proposed road, which will join the grand trunk road at Lahore, and by means of which a direct line of communication will thus be opened between Calcutta and the extreme boundary of our territory on the north-west frontier.

8. The estimates submitted to us for this road are not of so detailed a character as is usually required, but they are stated to be "as near the truth as the most detailed estimate could be in the present knowledge of the resources of the country." The work will, of course, not be finally proceeded with till the fuller estimates called for by the Governor-general shall have been submitted for sanction.

9. We take this opportunity of repeating our orders that when sketch and survey maps accompany the estimates for roads submitted for sanction, a copy be invariably forwarded to us with the papers relating to the case.

We are, &c.

(signed) *J. W. Hogg.*
Russell Ellice,
&c. &c.

London, 4 August 1852.

KURRACHEE MOLE AND ROAD.

Bombay Public Despatch, 11th August (No. 28) 1852.

Our Governor in Council at Bombay.

Para. 1. YOUR letter, dated the 16th February (No. 9) 1852, informs us with reference to our despatch No. 4 of 1851, that the Military Board has reported that the mole and road at Kurrachee can certainly be completed within the estimates; that, in their opinion, the exclusive attendance of an engineer officer

Further proceedings
respecting the Mole
and Road at Kur-
rachee.

is not necessary for the superintendence of the work, and that you have therefore authorised its completion, and have placed it under the superintendence of Captain Hill; providing that officer with an assistant to aid him in the performance of general duties as executive engineer in Lower Scinde.

2. These proceedings do not require any other notice than the expression of our approbation.

3. We are glad to observe that the Military Board has been directed to furnish quarterly reports of the progress of the works, by which your Government will be enabled to judge whether they are proceeding within the estimates.

4. With regard to the opinions of Lieutenant-colonel Scott and the Military Board respecting the probable effect of the mole on the Chinny Creek, we do not think it necessary at present to offer any remark.

We are, &c.

(signed) *J. W. Hogg.*
R. Ellice,
&c. &c.

London, 11 August 1852.

APPENDIX, No. 2.

Copy of Despatch to the Government of India,—Works on the Eastern Jumna Canal. The improvement and extension of Cochrane's Canal. The improvement of the Begaree Canal in Upper Scinde. Progress of the Hindoostan and Thibet Road.

Copy of Despatch to the Government of Fort St. George,—The construction of the Pennair Bridge and Annicut; the proposed construction of a Dam at Chetwye.

Copy of Despatch to the Government of Bombay,—Improvement of the roads in the Broach Collectorate.

Copy of Despatch to the Government of India,—Preparation of annual schemes for the construction of roads and bridges by the Governments of Fort St. George and Bombay.

Memorandum on the Roorkee College.

EASTERN JUMNA CANAL.

India Revenue Despatch, 15th June (No. 11) 1853.

Our Governor-General of India in Council.

Para. 1. In your letter in the Home Department, dated the 11th March last (No. 16), you have submitted for our sanction a plan for remodelling the central division of the Eastern Jumna Canal, the estimated expense of which is Rs. 1,52,760. 5. 1.

2. The necessity which would ultimately arise for straightening the tortuous course of this portion of the canal has long been recognised by the officers employed on it, and the time seems now to have arrived when it is most desirable that the work should be commenced. The mode in which it is proposed to carry it out is clearly shown in the printed memorandum prepared by Lieutenant Morton, the superintendent of the Eastern Jumna Canal, and has received the entire approval of Lieutenant-colonel Cautley, of the Military Board, and of the Lieutenant-governor of the North-Western Provinces.

3. The main advantages which are anticipated from the work consist in greatly economising the water and facilitating its distribution for purposes of cultivation. In addition to this, the high embankments which now exist on this part of the canal, and which occasionally give way, and thereby cause much loss and injury, will be dispensed with, and the sanitary condition of the country near its banks, which now suffers materially from the swamps which are formed by the leakage of the water, will be largely improved.

4. We observe that Colonel Cautley states the clear profit to the Government from this canal, after allowing 5 per cent. interest on the receipts and disbursements, to have amounted on the 1st May 1852 to 97,595 rupees.

5. Under these circumstances we have no hesitation in acceding to your recommendation, and willingly accord our sanction to the expenditure proposed.

We are, &c.
(signed) R. Ellice.
J. Oliphant.

London, 13 June 1853.

COCHRANE'S CANAL.

India Public Despatch, 31 March (No. 14) 1852.

Our Governor-General of India in Council.

Public Letter, dated 20 September (No. 36) 1850.

Cochrane's Canal. Para. 1. IN this letter you request our orders on the measures proposed by the Madras Government for the improvement of Cochrane's Canal and for the extension of the line of canal communication through the Pulicat Lake to Doogoorauzapatam. The subject is placed more fully before us in the letters from the Government of Fort St. George, noted in the margin.

Public letter (Public Works Department), dated 24th January (No. 2) 1849.

Revenue letter, 6th June (No. 30) 1850, para. 10; Revenue letter, 4th July (No. 33) 1851.

2. In our despatch to the Madras Government, dated 31 May (No. 12) 1848, we expressed our approval of the proposed expenditure of Rs. 22,047. 7. 9. for the improvement of the water communication between Madras and Sooloorpet, by means of Cochrane's Canal. This portion of the work, it would appear, has not been carried into execution, in consequence of the wish of the Madras Government to give their previous consideration to the recommendation conveyed in our despatch of the 22d July 1846, in favour of Colonel de Havilland's proposition for the extension of the canal. As the work appears to be desirable, it is unnecessary here to do more than renew our sanction to its adoption.

3. The extension of the line of water communication to Doogoorauzapatam, at the northern extremity of the Pulicat Lake, was recommended by us to the consideration of the Madras Government in our despatch above referred to of the 22d July 1846. All the officers consulted appear to concur in opinion as to the practicability of this measure. It is proposed to carry it out by means of a channel, to be formed by a dredging machine in the bed of the Pulicat Lake, between Sooloorpett and Doogoorauzapatam, and the expense is estimated, after a careful survey by Captain de Butts, the executive engineer, at Rs. 47,274. 15.

4. We are willing to give our sanction to this expenditure, provided that you adhere to the opinion that the proposed measure will not only be of great advantage to the trade of the district, but will also lead to a considerable increase in the traffic and revenue of the existing canal.

5. As the work in question is intended to occupy two years in completion, a considerable time must elapse before it will be possible to judge of its results, but we desire to be kept duly informed of the proceedings of the Madras Government on the subject.

We are, &c.

(signed) J. Sheppard.
J. W. Hogg,
&c. &c.

London, 31 March 1852.

BEGAREE CANAL.

India Revenue Despatch, 25 February (No. 3) 1852.

Our Governor-General of India in Council.

Begaree Canal. Para. 1. IN a letter dated the 26th of September last (No. 2), the Governor-general has solicited our favourable consideration of a project which had been submitted to him by the Government of Bombay, for widening and deepening the Begaree Canal in Upper Sinde. The cost of the work is estimated at 1,30,094 rupees, and the probable return at 1,19,000 rupees per annum. The canal flows partly through territory which belonged to Meer Ali Moorad, and it was proposed that that chief should be called on to defray a portion of the cost, but in the peculiar state of our relations with him, it was deemed unadvisable.

advisable to enter into any negotiation on the subject. Under the decision communicated to you in our Political Despatch, dated the 24th September (No. 33) 1851, no difficulty will probably be found in making the needful arrangements, or perhaps in dispensing altogether with his co-operation.

2. The account given by Mr. Frere, in his letter of the 10th June 1851, of the greatly improved condition of that portion of Upper Sindh which is under the charge of Major Jacob (with whom the project under consideration originated), is highly satisfactory. Besides the anticipated increase of revenue, advantages of various kinds, tending to the prosperity of the people, to be expected from the execution of this work, are pointed out by the Commissioner, and we readily accord the sanction solicited.

3. We observe with satisfaction the praise bestowed by the Commissioner in Sindh, Mr. Frere, on Major Jacob, for the part he has taken in bringing this project to the notice of Government, and that that recommendation is fully concurred in by the Governor of Bombay.

4. We shall forward a copy of this despatch to the Government of Bombay.

We are, &c.

(signed) J. Sheppard.
J. W. Hogg,
&c. &c.

London, 25 February 1852.

PROGRESS OF THE HINDOOSTAN AND THIBET ROAD.

Public Department, 18th May (No. 26) 1853.

Our Governor-General of India in Council.

Para. 1. THE plan for the construction of this road was regarded by us with great interest when it first came under our notice. Not only did we warmly approve the Governor-general's object of putting an end to the "Begaree system," by the formation of that portion of the line lying between Kalka and Simla, and look with interest to the political and commercial advantages likely to result from the opening of a line of communication with Thibet by way of Chini, but we regarded as highly important the solution of the question raised by Major Kennedy, when he laid out the line, viz., the possibility of constructing, through such a region as the Himalayas, a road which, while formed on correct and scientific principles, might yet be executed at a moderate cost.

Foreign Letter from, dated 7 December (No. 74) 1852.

With reference to paras. 16 to 19 of Public Despatch, dated 15 September (No. 35) 1852, transmit copy of a report, by Lieutenant Briggs, on the Hindoostan and Thibet Road, with the accompanying minute and correspondence, and solicit sanction to the further works required for the completion of the road, as well as to the construction of a branch road from Kussowlee to Buddce.

2. The results, as exhibited in the highly interesting report of Lieutenant Briggs, must be considered to be eminently satisfactory, so far as the work has yet proceeded. "Within little more than two years," observes the Governor-general, "a road of more than 50 miles long, 12 feet broad, and with a ruling gradient of three in 100 feet (temporarily departed from in two places where it will hereafter be rectified), will have been constructed from the Plains to Simla. One half of the road from Simla to Chini, that is 70 miles in length and six feet in breadth, with the same ruling gradient of three feet in 100, has been constructed, and a tunnel of 200 yards in length has been excavated through solid rock. By the aid of the tribute labour due by the hill chiefs, the road of 12 feet in width has cost only 1,237 rupees a mile, and the road of six feet 690 rupees." The leading principle of Major Kennedy's plan, adherence to the ruling level, has thus, as more fully shown by Lieutenant Briggs, been departed from in two or three unimportant instances only; and though the former-officer's sanguine expectations as to cost and rapidity of execution, have not perhaps been altogether realised, the experiment has been fully as successful in these respects as could have been expected, had the formidable nature of the country and the difficulty of procuring labour been more accurately known.

It appears desirable that this example of the successful working out of an important principle in road-making should be made generally known, and the printing of Lieutenant Briggs' report and its communication, not only to the officers of your Government, but also to the Governments of the other Presidencies, would seem to be the best means of accomplishing this object.

3. Additional works are still required on the Kalka and Simla road, at a cost of 10,000 rupees, in order to make it thoroughly complete, and 71 miles of the road between the latter place and Chini still remain to be finished, the cost of which will probably not exceed that of the completed portion. In addition to these works, Lieutenant Briggs proposed the formation of a branch road from Kussowlee to Buddee, at an estimated cost of 15,000 rupees, which would open a way from the Hill Stations to the Punjab, and the Governor-general is desirous that a branch road should be constructed from Dugshai to Subathoo, for the purpose of connecting all the stations in the hills with each other and with the plains. We give our cordial sanction to the expenditure required for the execution of these works.

4. We have, in conclusion, to express our concurrence in the commendations bestowed by the Governor-general on Lieutenant Briggs, the perusal of whose report has impressed us with a very high opinion of his general intelligence, as well as of his professional qualifications.

We are, &c.
(signed) *R. Ellice.*
J. Oliphant,
&c. &c.

London, 18 May 1853.

PENNAIR BRIDGE AND ANNICUT.

Madras Revenue Despatch, 18th February (No. 2) 1852.

Our Governor in Council at Fort St. George.

Pennair Bridge and
Annicut.

Para. 1. IN a letter dated the 12th August last (No. 10), the Government of India have submitted for our favourable consideration a project laid before them by your Government for the construction of an annicut (to serve likewise as a bridge) across the Pennair River, in the Nellore district, at a cost of Rs. 85,547. 4. 6.

2. This work is intended to secure and extend the cultivation of a large tract of country. It is stated that on the average of the last five years, land bearing an assessment of 13,094 rupees has been annually abandoned, solely from the want of water to irrigate it. This amount would be at once secured by the execution of the proposed work; but it is further confidently anticipated that by increased cultivation, the ultimate gain to the revenue would not fall short of 20,000 rupees.

3. Relying on the correctness of your estimates, both of expenditure and return, we accord the sanction solicited by you and by the Government of India. Although in authorising expenditure on works of this description, we of course look to the direct return which they are calculated to produce in the shape of an increase to the land revenue, we are also mainly influenced by a consideration of the great advantages which they afford to the cultivators by extending the field of their labour, securing to them its fruits, and adding to its productiveness.

London, 18 February 1853.

We are, &c.
(signed) *J. Sheppard.*
J. W. Hogg,
&c. &c.

CHETWYE DAM.

Madras Revenue Despatch, 15th December (No. 19) 1852.

Our Governor in Council at Fort St. George.

Para. 1. WE now reply to your letters of the dates noted in the margin, forwarding for our sanction a proposal of Major Cotton to construct a dam at Chetwye, in lieu of that which failed at Yennamaikal, in the district of Malabar.

Chetwye Dam.
Letters dated
10th September
(No. 53) 1851;
25th June (No. 30)
1852.

2. Chetwye is some miles further down the stream than Yennamaikal, and before finally determining on the new site, the question seems to have received a very careful investigation, and no effort seems to have been spared to arrive at an accurate view of the comparative advantages of the former and proposed position of the dam. The discussion which preceded the decision of the question being of an exclusively professional character, it is not our intention to enter into a review of it. It is sufficient to observe in this place, that Major Cotton appears not only to have effectually disposed of the objections which were urged against the work so far as to carry the opinion of his official superiors with him, but to have obtained the acquiescence of his opponents in the correctness of his views.

3. We observe also that the opposition originally offered by the Cochin Sirkar to the removal of the bund from Yennamaikal to Chetwye was based on an erroneous view of the subject, and was subsequently withdrawn.

4. In a financial point of view, the proposal of Major Cotton appears to possess many great advantages. The expense of restoring the dam at Yennamaikal is estimated at Rs. 34,814. 13., and that of constructing a new dam at that place at Rs. 74,214. 4.; while the total expense of a dam at Chetwye is estimated at Rs. 36,215. 14. The revenue derived from the bund at Yennamaikal is 2,500 rupees per annum, and the annual revenue to be expected from the erection of the bund at Chetwye is, at the lowest estimate, 7,500 rupees. If therefore, the cost of erecting a bund, and the return to be expected from it at these two positions, be compared, it appears on a rough computation that the work might be executed at Chetwye at half the cost, while the return would be trebled, showing a return of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.* on the outlay in one case, and of 21 per cent. in the other.

* Cost.	Return.	Return.	
Rs.	Rs.	Dec.	Rs. a. p.
74,000	2,500	3'24	or 3 3 11
36,000	7,500	20'83	or 20 13 4

5. Relying, therefore, on the accuracy of the information and estimates submitted to us, we have no hesitation in according our sanction to Major Cotton's proposal.

6. You solicit our orders on another question in connexion with this work, viz., the portion of expense that the Cochin Government should bear in its construction and subsequent maintenance in repair. As the Cochin State will participate in the benefits accruing from the work, it seems but reasonable that that State should contribute towards the expense of constructing it. But the dewan of Cochin, and the Resident, Major-general Cullen, object to such contribution, the former on general grounds, and the latter on the ground that the Cochin Government was in no way responsible for the failure of the bund, and is in consequence of its poverty entitled to liberal consideration. The force of these objections is recognised by your President, while Mr. Thomas does not wholly concur in them.

7. Under all the circumstances of the case, we are disposed to concur in the opinion expressed by your President in his minute, dated 12th June 1852, that the Cochin Durbar having intimated its readiness "to contribute to the preservation of the dam so soon as it shall be built, this is as much as ought to be required."

London, 15 December 1852.

We are, &c.
(signed) J. W. Hogg.
R. Ellice,
&c. &c.

REPAIR OF ROADS IN THE BROACH COLLECTORATE.

Extract Public Letter to Bombay, dated 29th June (No. 22) 1853.

Letter from, dated 25th February (No. 13) 1851.

(Paras. 24, 25; also letter dated 27th January (No. 5) 1852, p. 28.)

Expenditure of 2,000 rupees, out of certain fines imposed on account of the adulteration of cotton, on the repair of roads in the Broach Collectorate, sanctioned, in addition to 1,000 rupees from the annual repair fund, which it was intended to appropriate to the object. An estimate was subsequently sanctioned for the construction, at a cost of 879 rupees, of a causeway over the Dhadur Creek, which had long been a serious obstacle to the traffic between the different parts of the Broach Collectorate. The causeway was to be made by driving in two rows of piles across the river, at the distance of 12 feet apart, the inner sides being boarded with coarse planks, and the centre being filled in with stones and rubbish, which would form the roadway.

Para. 30. It appears to be the decided opinion of Mr. Davies, the Collector, that no expensive measures for the improvement of the roads in the Broach Collectorate are required, and that the removal of the obstacles, arising principally from their narrowness, which at present impede traffic on "the rough though practicable roads," by which the district is intersected in "all directions," may be accomplished without much difficulty. It is highly satisfactory that Mr. Davies finds the inhabitants ready to assist him in these works, and that he expects to be able to carry out his objects as regards the improvement of the roads, without the aid of the engineers' department.

31. The want of the means of crossing the numerous streams within the collectorate, appears far more pressing than even that of the repair of the roads, and should receive your early attention. The simple method employed at the Dadur Creek, where it is crossed by the road leading to the port of Tunkariá, may, if successful there, be applicable probably to other places of the same character; but we are desirous of learning whether the suggestion of Mr. Davies to Captain Goodfellow for the construction of "a strong, simple, wooden bridge" over the Kharree, between Khutpoor Sumlee and Hansote, and which he thought might serve as a model for others, if it should be found to answer, has yet been acted on.

32. We observe that, in this instance, the Collector of Broach, finding the amount assigned for the repair of the roads in his district insufficient, applied for an additional amount (2,000 rupees) out of the sums realised from fines levied under a recent law upon persons guilty of the offence of adulterating cotton. You are aware of our objection to any special appropriation of assets of this description to local purposes, but we should have entirely approved of your having sanctioned the additional grant out of the general revenues for an object of public benefit, such as that in question.

Public Department, 24th May (No. 32) 1853.

Our Governor-General of India in Council.

Preparation of annual schemes for the construction of roads and bridges by the Governments of Fort St. George and Bombay.

1. We have been anxiously awaiting the result of the inquiries which, in accordance with our orders of the 30th January 1850, have been instituted by the Governments of Fort St. George and Bombay, with regard to the superintendence and execution of public works at those Presidencies:

2. In our consideration of the proceedings of the above-named Governments with regard to various proposed works of public improvement, and especially in the case of roads, we have often, and in that despatch especially; noticed the irregular and unsystematic manner in which the plans laid before them have been disposed of. The sanction given to the several schemes by the local governments, or the recommendations made to your Government in favour of them, appear to have been grounded too frequently on considerations limited to each particular project, and having no reference to the general wants of the country. The natural consequence of such a mode of proceeding, as regards roads, has been that large expenditure has not unfrequently been incurred on lines of inferior importance, while the trunk lines have remained in an imperfect state, on the ground that the necessary funds could not be spared to complete them.

3. In

3. In the despatch above referred to, we showed ourselves strongly impressed with the evils arising from so imperfect and inadequate a mode of considering the subject, and referred to your consideration not only the best mode of departmental management to be adopted with regard to public works, but also the importance of taking into view all such works, and especially trunk and branch roads, as portions of one connected system. While we shall await the information referred to in the first paragraph of this despatch, before entering on a consideration of the general subject, we are desirous that no time should be lost in applying a remedy for the particular evil we have pointed out.

4. It is our opinion that the object in view may best be attained by the adoption of a plan of the following description. Each of the local governments should require, annually, from the officers who, in the respective Presidencies, may be vested with the general charge of the roads, a statement of the new works most urgently required for the purposes of inter-communication, and the execution of which, within the ensuing year, he may be prepared to undertake. On receiving this statement, it would be the duty of the Government to decide, after a careful consideration of the circumstances of the Presidency at the time, whether the works proposed had been properly selected, in preference to others, for immediate execution; and having come to a conclusion on this point, the whole scheme involving the proposed expenditure on new roads and bridges for the coming year, should be submitted for your final sanction and approval.

5. The plan above indicated, though peculiarly required with reference to the means of internal communication, ought also to be applied to public works of every description; and believing that much benefit would arise from the means it would afford of bringing annually under review the wants of each Presidency, as regards buildings, works of irrigation, and other works of a miscellaneous character, we direct that its operations be extended accordingly. It is desirable that, with respect to these works, as in the case of roads, the statements should exhibit the entire expenditure proposed to be incurred on new works, whatever may be the amount of the estimate for each; and we forward to you a number in the packet, a copy of the Ordnance Estimate, as annually laid before Parliament. You will find in that portion of them which relates to the public works, the form giving the estimated expense of new works, and the past as well as probable expense of those in progress, and we should recommend that this form should be adopted so far as it is applicable to the circumstances in India.

6. We wish it to be distinctly understood, that in issuing these orders, it is far from our desire either to place any further restriction on the amount heretofore expended on works of public improvement, or to deprive the Governments of Fort St. George and Bombay of any of the power they have hitherto possessed of authorising expenditure on such works. Our object is primarily to secure the application of the money to be expended in such a way as to produce the greatest possible benefit to the country and to the community; but the proposed plan, while preserving to your government that general control over the finances of India, which it is intended that you should possess, will have the advantage of relieving your government from that unnecessary distraction of attention and waste of time, which arise from a number of separate projects, relating to objects of a kindred nature, being brought under your consideration at different periods.

We are, &c.
(signed) R. Ellice,
J. Oliphant,
&c. &c.

London, 24 May 1853.

MEMORANDUM on the ROORKEE COLLEGE.

For years there had existed a large demand for skill in every branch of civil engineering, to supply which efforts were for some time made by providing the means of special training in institutions which were then existing. In January 1845, Lieutenant Baird Smith, of the Engineers, superintendent of the Eastern Jumna Canal, undertook to conduct, at Saharunpoor, the education and training

ing of native youths in civil engineering; and two of the most advanced scholars in the Agra and Delhi Colleges were placed under Lieutenant Smith's care. Towards the close of the same year masters were appointed to the Delhi and Agra Colleges for the special purpose of teaching architectural drawing and surveying; a class of "sub-assistant engineers" was also formed, with fixed allowances and a recognised standing in the public service.

The number of sub-assistant executive engineers was at first limited to four, but was subsequently (22d December 1846) increased to 20. One of Lieutenant Baird Smith's pupils, named Mannoo Lall, was immediately examined, and found qualified for an appointment of this nature; he has since rendered valuable services as a teacher in the Roorkee College. Three other native youths passed the required examination and obtained appointments as sub-assistant executive engineers. The chief benefit of the measure had been, to hold out definite expectations to the educated youth in the Government colleges. The standard of mathematical attainments had been designedly fixed high, and there were many who were making great exertions to reach the mark.

In 1847 Lord Hardinge determined on the vigorous prosecution of the Ganges Canal. The science that was necessary to construct a work of this magnitude would also be constantly kept in exercise for its maintenance, improvement and extension; immediate measures were necessary to meet the emergency, and to provide a constant supply of well-trained, experienced civil engineers. Out of this emergency Roorkee College had its rise.

The proposal for its institution obtained the immediate and cordial support of the Governor-general of India. On October 19th, 1847, Lieutenant R. MacLagan, of the Bengal Engineers, was appointed principal of the college, and on November 25th of the same year the Prospectus was issued:—

No. 949.

General Department, North-Western Provinces. Head Quarters,
the 25th November 1847.

NOTIFICATION.

"The Lieutenant-governor directs the publication, for general information, of the following * Prospectus of a college for instruction in civil engineering, which is now established at Roorkee, and of which Lieutenant R. MacLagan, Engineers, has been appointed principal."

* See Report printed by order of the Honourable the Lieut.-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, 1851.

It was reported in 1851 that, though little more than three years have passed since the first opening of the college, and during part of that time the exigencies of the public service in the Punjab war caused a temporary suspension of operations, yet a considerable number of well-trained men had been furnished to the service of the state, and the institution had obtained a standing and organization which afforded promise of much future usefulness.

The following measures were proposed, in 1851, for the further development of the scheme which was contemplated in the first design of the institution; viz.,—

1st. The admission of officers, both of the Royal and East India Company's armies, to study at Roorkee College.

2d. The improvement and superintendence of the village schools in a circle of 40 or 50 miles round Roorkee.

3d. The establishment, in connexion with the college, of a depot of mathematical and scientific instruments, and of a workshop for their manufacture and repair.

4th. The formation of a museum of economic geology.

5th. The erection of an observatory for instruction.

6th. The maintenance of metal and stone printing presses, with a book-binder's establishment, and all that is necessary for the publication of scientific works, with appropriate drawings and illustrations.

7th. The

7th. The enlargement of the college building and establishment to meet all the purposes.

The applications for admission into the several departments of the college had been very great.

The following are Extracts from the Court's Despatches on the subject of the College.

EXTRACT Public Letter to India, dated 28 March (No. 6) 1849.

Para. 2. WE concur in the view taken by the Lieutenant-governor of the North-Western Provinces, of the advantages which may reasonably be expected from an institution of this nature, and we therefore approve of its establishment.

EXTRACT Public Letter to India, dated 2 June (No. 23) 1852.

Para. 7. WE accordingly give our sanction to the expenditure which will be necessary to carry out the plan of the Lieutenant-governor.

8. While we have been mainly influenced in authorising this large outlay by the considerations placed before us by the Lieutenant-governor, arising from the advantages to the public service, and the general benefits to the people which may be expected from placing the college on a thoroughly efficient footing, we hail with much satisfaction the means which the institution, on its extended plan, will afford to the native youth of qualifying themselves for the service of Government in a way which is, to a great extent, new to them, but for which, so far as they have been tried, they have manifested a perfect aptitude.

EXTRACT Public Letter to India, dated 14 July (No. 27) 1852.

68. WE notice with much satisfaction the additional evidence afforded in these papers of the successful working of this important institution, and we approve the measures which you have sanctioned for the further extension of its usefulness.

Letter from, dated 21 December (No. 47) 1850.

(7 to 9.) The establishment of a class in the Roorkee College for imparting the rudiments of civil engineering in the vernacular language having proved very successful, the number of the class increased from 16 to 24. At the same time, the allowance of one-third of the whole number was fixed at 10 rupees instead of 5 rupees per mensem, and as it was thought desirable to encourage the resort to the college of youths from the Punjab, sanction was given for the payment of travelling allowance to a limited number of young men from Lahore.

(True copies.)

East India House,
17 August 1853.

(signed) T. L. Peacock,
Examiner of India Correspondence.

PUBLIC WORKS (INDIA).

A RETURN of all SUMS spent on PUBLIC WORKS (not of a Military kind) in *India*, since April 1834, keeping distinct the Amounts spent on the REPAIRS of OLD, and on the CONSTRUCTION of NEW WORKS, together with the Objects of the Works newly Constructed; and stating, when remunerative, the Amounts received from such Works.

(*Mr. Bright.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
20 August 1853.

[Price 1s. 10d.]

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