M.R.O. 1—32,400—23-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 606	Press Mis.
Dated 30 11	18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department, for the month of November 1859.

No. 27. Read the following letter from J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 16th November 1859, No. 4577.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Order of Government, dated the 9th instant, No 571, and to express my regret that my letter on which it was passed, was not as comprehensive as it ought to have been. I have still to report on the suggestions of the Officer superintending the works at Paumbem, for the publication of revised Charts of the channel, and for widening that through the reef.

20th October 1859, *No.* 4260.

2. With reference to the first, I think it would be advisable to send to the Council of India the latest soundings taken through the channels, and request that they may be inserted in a new edition of the late Commander Powell's Chart of 1845. I advise this because I believe that Chart to be correct in its delineation of the adjacent banks and coast line, and that the only alterations required to be made are in regard to the depths which have been since attained in the channels. Major Horsley's plan is mentioned only as "a correct sketch," but Commander Powell's Chart was prepared from a trigonometrical survey, and unless the configuration of the land and shoals has altered in the intervening time, which I have not heard to be the case, it appears to me that this must be the more correct of the two.

3. Proceeding now to the proposition for widening the reef channel at the bend, I am of opinion that it would be of great advantage, for it is the most difficult part of the whole navigation. Not only does the current run rapidly there, but it sets obliquely across the channel, rendering this particular part of the passage hazardous to large vessels. It was here that the late Honorable Company's Steamer "Medusa" grounded when on her way from Bombay to Madras, in 1852, to join the expedition to Burmah; and it is here that the most serious damage occurs to vessels when grounding. What is required, is, that the elbow or corner should be cut away so as to straighten the western side of the channel.

No. 28. ORDER THEREON, 30th November 1859, No. 606.

Under the opinion recorded in the last paragraph of the above letter, the Chief Engineer will, as proposed in paragraph 22 of his letter, 2nd September last, No. 4498, submit an estimate of the cost of cutting away the inner angle at the bend of the reef channel.

2. With respect to the greater accuracy attributed to the late Commander Powell's Chart of Paumbem, the Government observe from the correspondence, noted in the margin—copies of which will be furnished to the Superintendent of Marine—that Major Horsley's Sketch was forwarded to the Court of Directors for the purpose of correcting certain discrepancies in Lieutenant Powell's Chart. Under the course adopted in paragraph 2 of the Order of the 12th ultimo, No. 511, Government will await the arrival of the copy, or return of Major Horsley's Sketch, before deciding what measures shall be taken for the preparation of the new Chart proposed to be published.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, 13*th March* 1850, *No.* 87, *paragraph* 2, *with copy of the Despatch therein referred to.*

Extract Minutes of Consultation, 8*th August* 1850, *No.* 274.

Chief Engineer's report, 18*th June* 1850, *paragraphs* 2 *and* 3.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Under the opinion recorded
in the last para: of the above
letter, the Chief Engineer will,
as proposed in para 22 of his
letter 2nd September last No: 4498
submit an estimate of the cost of
cutting away the inner angle
at the head of the reef chan-
nel.

2. With respect to the great
er accuracy attributed to
the late Commander Co-
well's Chart of Saumlaem,
the Govt. observe from the
Ex. Mins: Cons: 16th March Correspondence,
1850, No: 87 Para 2. with noted in the mar-
copies of the Dupatch there
referred to.
— 8th Augt. 1850 No: 274. gin — copies of which
Chief Engineer's Report will be furnished
13th June 1850 — para: to the Superinten-
283. dent

of Marine — that Major Horsley's Sketch was forwarded to the Court of Directors for the purpose of correcting certain discrepancies in Lt. Powell's Chart. Under the course adopted in para 2 of the Orders of the 12th Ulto. No. 511 — Govt. will await the arrival of the copy, or return of Major Horsley's Sketch, before deciding what measures shall be taken for the preparation of the new Chart proposed to be published.

The Superintendent of Marine with correspondence above referred to.

Pub. Wks. Dept.
Chief Engineer.