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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1483

(B No. 40-41)

Press
Mis.Dated 1st August 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

(N^o 1483.

P.W.D.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 1st ^{August} July, 1857.

Read the following
letter from the Chief Engineer

(Here enter 15th June 1857 N^o 1182)

Para 1. With this letter
the Chief Engineer forwards
copy of one from Colonel Cotton,
Commandant of Engineers, -
reporting, after a visit to the
upper Godavery as far as the
first or Sinteral barrier, upon
the question of improving
the navigation of that river.

2 Colonel Cotton's
report may be said to treat
of two different subjects, -
which though tending to the
same end, may be separately
considered. One is the general
question of the improvement
of

of the navigation on a great scale, so as to open it for about nine months in the year; the other, is the measures that should be adopted immediately for assisting traffic, pending the commencement of the permanent and more expensive works.

3 On the first subject the Government have very lately expressed their views in considering the able report by Lieut Haig, submitted with the Chief Engineer's letter of the 7th of July 1856. Colonel Cotton's views appear to agree very generally with those expressed by Lieut Haig, and it is not necessary to go minutely into them; it will be sufficient to remark that in the Extract from the

E. M. C. 19th May 1857 N^o 61.

Para 56

the Minutes of Consultation dated the 19th May 1857, N^o 61, the Government have recorded a strong opinion in favor of so improving the navigation of the Godavery as to afford water communication from the Sea to Natchengam, a distance of 500 miles, during 8 or 9 months of the year. The question of completing the navigation throughout the whole year, by the artificial supply of water in the hot months, was left for consideration whenever more certain information shall have been obtained regarding the expense at which water may be stored. The whole question of the navigation was left for eventual final disposal, whenever Lieut Haig

Haig should return to India from the professional tour he is about to make in Europe and America, and should have laid before Government the results of his experience, as far as it may prove applicable to the project ^{to} which his attention has been for some time directed.

4. As regards the second subject of the report under notice, viz the measures to be adopted for immediate execution with the view of improving the navigation for the interval that will elapse before Lieut Haig's return, Colonel Cotton refers to the following points, and specifies the expenditure he would recommend the Government to

to make on each.

1 Establishment	Rs 1,00,000.
2 Removing rocks	30,000.
3 Concentrating the Stream at the shoals.	10,000.
4 Locks at the second barrier	10,000.
5 Repairing Engine & building boat for it.	6,000.
6 Other boats	10,000.
7 Two pairs of new small Engines & boats.	12,000.
8 Sundries	10,000.
	<u>Rs 1,88,000.</u>

5. As regards the first item, Colonel Cotton proposes that a staff of Officers consisting of a District Engineer and five assistants, besides 20 Europeans, and a considerable subordinate native establishment, should remain permanently stationed on the river, "to help forward the traffic in all sorts of ways, to execute the works proposed, and to work the river regularly on Government

ment account, conveying troops,
stores, salt, and even merchandise
and travellers, till the traffic is
thoroughly taken up by private
parties. This establishment
is proposed as part of Colonel
Cotton's scheme, which he
hopes, if adopted in full,
will increase the river traffic;
but, as the Government, for
reasons which will be stated
below, are not in a position
to recommend the adoption
of the remainder of Colonel
Cotton's views, it would be
manifestly inexpedient to
maintain an Establishment
needed only to carry them
out.

6 The second, third,
and fourth items, are but
parts of the general plan
for the improvement of the
navigation of the river, and

News No. 5. 6 & 7.

7th
as by Lieut. Haig's mission
to Europe and America, the
Government practically admit
that experience is required before
any plans are adopted for
carrying out the general scheme,
they consider it would be
premature to sanction Colonel
Cotton's recommendation in
this respect, and that it would
be better to leave the question
of improving the river until
Lieut. Haig's return.

7 The three next
items are all connected
with the construction of boats
for the navigation of the
river, and as one object of
Lieut. Haig's journey is parti-
cularly specified to be the
acquisition of information
as to the craft used on shallow
rivers in America, the Govern-
ment consider that the
same

same reasoning that induces
them to decline sanction to
the works proposed for the
improvement of the river, must
lead them also to decline ex-
penditure in building boats
or in constructing engines.

18 The Government
consider that Colonel Cotton's
report eminently displays
the ability ^{which} that all that
comes from his hand so
clearly shows, and they
regret that they are, on this
occasion, obliged to decline
his suggestions. Col. Cotton
will however observe, that they
have in no respect lost
the interest they have always
felt in the great scheme of naviga-
tion he has proposed, and has
continued with such persevering
ability to press forward, and that they
in no degree depart from the antici-
pation of eventual success which they
recorded on the 19th of May last.

But late orders from

the Government of India
issued under a Political
necessity, put it out
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to adopt, at present,
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91
But Colonel Cotton must
be aware, as fully as the
Government, that recent
events in India must too
surely increase the financial
difficulties under which the
Supreme Government have
for some time labored, that
money for the works he
has proposed could be ob-
tained only on emergent
sanction from that authority,
and that this Government

would not be acting
wisely, in placing, on the
Government of India the
onus of refusing money
for works, which at the
time the application was
made, it was well known
that they could not sanction.

9 The Government
anticipate with great interest
the

the return of Lieutenant
Haig to India, and will
be prepared to take up the
plans he may then submit,
and to give them full and
immediate consideration.

10 It is stated in para 11
that the "authority of Hyderabad
back extends over only a
little strip of land on the
east bank of the Godavary,
all the way from the Wurdah
to the boundary of Rajahmundry;
and that this
strip separated the Nizam's
State from the river."

This strip of land is
insignificant in value,
but as it cuts off Nagpore
for two hundred miles
from a highway of the
greatest importance, Colonel
Cotton suggests that some
arrangements

page 5.

11
arrangement should be
made with His Highness
the Nizam for its transfer
to Nagpore; we should
then "be sure" possess a
bank of the river throughout
"from the Wurdah to the sea,
and the great desideratum
would then be attained, of
the residence of an English
Revenue Officer on the bank
of the river, a point of
incalculable importance
and benefit, not only to
our Zamindaries, but also
to those on the other side;
where he describes, a then-
land horrors are enacted
which would at once
vanish before the light
that the presence of an
English Officer would
create. Colonel Cotton
Considers

considers this to be the first and most essential step that should be taken in order to secure the effective opening up of this great highway; and secondly he proposes that a portion of the contingent should be established on the line of the river.

11 The Government
are disposed to concur in
the views expressed by our
Colonel Estlin, as to the
advantages to be derived
by the transfer of the narrow
tract of country mentioned
by him, as well as in re-
gard to the other arrange-
ments ^{he} suggested ~~by him~~,
for securing the operations
on the river, against inter-
ference on the part of the
neighbouring

neighbouring ^{petty} States; indeed
the Government regard
these measures, as essential
preliminaries to the more
enlarged operations which
they have it in contem-
-plation to undertake on
the Godavery, after Sir
Baig's return from Europe
and America, and will
bring them ~~about~~ to the notice
of the Government of India.
~~Now a line will be
drawn to each di-
vision a line more for
cupation ball
loss applied
than is the present that
have arrived.~~

12 As many typos-
graphical errors are con-
firmed in the printed
copy of Colonel Botton's
report, it will be return-
ed to the Chief Engineer
for

for comparison with
the original, for correc-
-tion, and retransmission
to Government.

B.S.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr. *Perp. 3?*
with Coll. Cotton: Repub.

Copy in a Letter to E.
of 3 Nov 1857. No 18.

29-11-1857

16-1-31, IV

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D. to Cons 4th August

Ref. No 1483.

Contract Mins of Cons.

27th August 1857.

From Col. A. J. Cotton Commandant
of Engin. - 26 Sept 57 C. No 1930
in Encl. 1st Op.

Referring to the Report
from Colonel Cotton regarding
the navigation of the Upper Godavari
and its tributaries in order to help
the Cotton and Cons. Trade of Bora
and to establish a regular carriage
throughout the whole distance,
from the Cotton fields to the
shipping port of Conner and
the Eastern Coast.

Copy with Report to Govt.
of India - 27th August
Cons. of Nagpore.
27 Aug 57 - No.
No 1483. 1647-1648.