1. Number of papers
2. Date of repair 13/9/37
3. Initials of Referencer

M.R.O. 1—82,400—28-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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G.O. No. 2335	Press Mis.
1920	
Dated 17.12.	18 37

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 19. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 6th October 1857, No. 4257.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit for the information of Government the accompanying letter from the District Engineer Madura, dated 20th May 1857, No. 312, together with its enclosures, viz., three letters to his address from Captain Gib on the operations of the Paumben works, an Abstract Statement A. shewing the work executed, another D. of the Tonnage which passed through the channel B, a statement, shewing the quantity of powder expended, and C the receipts, and disbursements, all having reference to the past official year 1856-57. The District Engineer has also forwarded a statement* shewing the collections made, during the above period, on account of Pilotage, and warp hire, as well as an Abstract Statement* of the expenditure on the Paumben channel, up to the 30th April last, out of the sanction of Rupees (30,250) thirty-thousand, two hundred and fifty, accorded by the Government of India, on the 21st April 1854, and communicated in Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 9th May 1851, No. 5, both of which statements I beg also herewith to submit.

* Marked E.
* Marked F.

2. Captain Gib's report* on the result of the operations of the past year appears to be highly satisfactory, and is fully acquiesced in by the District Engineer. The operations have in no way differed from those of the preceding year, having been limited to blasting, in consequence of the continued absence from Paumben of the Steam Dredge, Captain Gib remarks that the weather after the breaking up of the North East Monsoon was very favorable for channel work and every advantage had been taken of it and that if he had had the use of the Dredge, during even the last three months of the year, he would not only have shewn a greater amount of work done, but the depth of the water in the channel would have been more apparent.

* Letter No 142.

3. Notwithstanding this drawback the quantity of work which has been excavated in the Main channel through the Reefs is very creditable to the exertions of Captain Gib. The Rock raised by the weighing Dhonies, during seven months of the past official year, being in excess of that for eight months of the preceding year 1855, by 18091 cubic feet. The total quantity raised in 1856-57 being 72,807 Cubic feet, while the quantity in 1855 was only 53,816 cubic feet.

4. The Government will be glad to learn that as the usefulness of the Paumben pass is becoming more developed by the operations carried on, it is being more and more appreciated and that commerce is extended through its means. Large as was the tonnage which passed through the channel in 1855-56 viz., 1,71,922, it has been exceeded in 1856-57 by 5847, the tonnage in this year having amounted to 1,77,769 being equal to more than 487 tons a day.

5. Captain Gib has also submitted through the District Engineer an Abstract* of the expenditure during the year under review. It has amounted to Rupees (7,239-2-7) seven thousand, two hundred and thirty-nine, annas two, and pice seven. The Statement E shews the amount collected on account of Pilotage and warp hire, which, after deducting the Pilots share, amounts to Rupees (10,486-15-9) ten thousand, four hundred and eighty-six, annas fifteen, and pice nine. Captain Gib, as well as the District Engineer in alluding to this statement, would appear to draw the conclusion that the collections exceed the expenditure, but this is entirely erroneous, they seem to have overlooked the fact that the statement of expenditure does not include the cost of the Paumben works Establishment, convicts labor &c. which if included, I have no doubt would still exceed the collections to a considerable extent. It must be owned, however, that a very large return on the expenditure on these works is being derived, and which it is hoped will in a few years more than cover all the future expenses of the operations.

* Statement C.

6. The Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation dated the 24th April 1856, No. 557. called for a statement shewing the cost of the Paumben Works Establishment, Captain Gib has furnished this statement for the second half of the year 1854-55, and for the whole of 1855-56, which in the aggregate amounts to Rupees (30,024-13-8) thirty thousand, and twenty-four, annas thirteen, and pice eight, being an average of nearly (1,670) one thousand, six hundred and seventy, Rupees a month. For 1855-56 alone, it amounts to Rupees (20,013-12-9) twenty thousand, and thirteen, annas twelve, and pice nine, which makes about the same average per month of that year, I beg to submit this statement as well as on Annual Abstract Account Current for 1855-56, and twelve monthly detailed accounts for each month of that year, shewing the expenditure on these works, which according to these accounts, amounts to Rupees (6,216-12-9) six thousand two hundred and sixteen annas twelve and pice nine this amount, with the cost of the establishment alluded to above, during this period makes an aggregate of Rupees (26,230-9-6) twenty-six thousand, two hundred, and thirty annas nine and pice six, comparing this aggregate with the net collections alluded to in the previous para. viz. Rupees (10,846-15-9) ten thousand, eight hundred, and forty-six annas fifteen and pice nine, it will be seen how far the expenditure exceeds the collections. It is not just I know to compare the collections of one year with the expenditure of another, but it is enough to shew that Captain Gib, is mistaken in supposing that the collections more than meet the expenditure. I have other objections to making a comparison for any useful purpose with such a Statement as that furnished by Captain Gib, of the cost of the establishment, which I shall presently advert to; in the meantime I beg to solicit the sanction of Government for the expenditure during 1855-56 viz. Rupees 6,216-12-9, as has been usual hitherto, to enable the Accountant General to debit the amount in his Books against the work. Under the present system no similar sanction appears necessary for the expenditure in 1856-57, which will be adjusted by Bills in the usual manner and brought on the Books of the Central office.

20,013	12	9
6,216	12	9
26,230	9	6

7. The objections to the Statement exhibiting the cost of the Paumben works establishment are that it includes several items which should not appear in it. For facility of reference the whole of the several heads under which the expenditure is exhibited in the Statement are given in the margin. The three first items are I think properly entered in it, but not so as regards the three last. The pay of the detachment of Sappers which amounts to nearly (300) three hundred Rupees a month, should not have been included by Captain Gib, the working money paid to these men should only be charged against the Public Works Department as is the case in other Departments when assisted in any work by details from Corps, but their pay is purely Military charge. Again the *full* amount paid on account of the subsistence of the convicts employed on the works and the Jail establishment appear to be entered in this Statement. I do not think this correct, it is for the Government to determine what portion of these charges should form a debit against the Paumben works as they doubtless should bear a proportionate share of the charges, although not of all. These extra or overcharges have tended greatly to swell the amount of the cost of the establishment as exhibited in this statement.

Military and Civil salaries of Captain Gib.
Salaries of two Assistant Overseers.
Pay of Artificers.
Pay of a detachment of Sappers.
Subsistance of convicts.
Pay of the Jail establishment

8. I beg here to inform the Government that on a reference being made to the Journals of the Collector of Madura, obtained for the purpose from the Accountant General) to see how these charges have been adjusted in his accounts, it does not appear that the Military allowances of Captain Gib, have been debited to the Department. The civil salary is only shewn, charged to the head Salaries establishments and contingencies of the Public Works Department," Neither is it clear whether the salaries of the two Overseers attached to the Paumben works have been charged against the same, no particulars being given in the Collector's Journal of the pay of the establishments, and the pay of the Artificers is not exhibited in the Journal alluded to above, It would appear to have been disbursed from the Treasury of the Paymaster Southern Division, but under what head exhibited in his Books I am unable to state. I merely mention these facts in order that should the Government think proper the necessary instructions may be issued for the proper exhibition in the Public Books of all charges of the P. W. D.

9. I would beg further to suggest for the consideration of Government that as the defects pointed out in Captain Gib's statement alluded to in the 8th para. of his letter, render it valueless as a document affording the information required of it, that he be directed to furnish one complete Abstract Statement shewing on one side all the sums which have been from time to time sanctioned by the Government and received on account of the Paumben works, from their commencement, and on the other side the sums expended therefrom. Another statement shewing the cost of the establishment similar to the one alluded to in the preceding para. prepared, in accordance with such instructions as the Government may be pleasd to issue with reference to my observation on the statement alluded to above, and a third statement shewing the collections on account of pilotage and warp hire and any other species of collections made from the Paumben channel. Such statements before the Government and this office will answer many useful purposes. I do not anticipate that the preparation will take up much time, or be the work of much labour, as they need not exhibit any particulars beyond giving in one line the amount of receipts and expenditure during each official year up to the 30th April 1857.

10. The Government will see by the Statement F furnished by the District Engineer Madura that the expenditure on the Paumben works out of the sanctioned sum of Rupees (30,250) thirty thousand two hundred and fifty, amounts, up to the 30th April last, to Rupees (19,433-11-7) nineteen thousand four hundred and thirty-three, annas eleven and pice seven and if to this be added the sum of Rupees (5,600) five thousand and six hundred paid to Mr. Faulkner at Rajahmundry for building three timber or spoil boats for the Dredge, the aggregate expenditure will be Rupees (25,033-11-7) twenty-five thousand and thirty-three, annas eleven and pice seven, leaving a balance at the end of the past Official year of Rupees (5,216-4-5) five thousand two hundred and sixteen, annas four and pice five. Captain Gib in his letter No. 142 represents, in expectation however that the Steam Dredge would again soon be at Paumben, that the aforesaid balance is insufficient for prosecuting the works during the current year, and he accordingly has forwarded an estimate* amounting to Rupees (12,898) twelve thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight. In a subsequent letter† the District Engineer of Madura has forwarded another estimate for 18 months operations from Captain Gib amounting to Rupees (22,300) twenty-two thousand and three hundred for deepening and widening the Sand Bank channel to a depth of 13 feet at ordinary tides, the excess of this latter estimate over the one first received is in some measure owing to the item of the pay of the Engineer of the Dredge having been entered therein which the former one did not provide for.

* Marked G.

† Dated 20th June 1857, No. 427.

11. Since the foregoing remarks were written two letters from Captain Gib have been received of which copies are now submitted. In the first dated 11th August‡ 1857, the Superintendent states the necessity of employing the Steam Dredge to remove the rocks in the reef channel, and of deepening the Sand bank channel, and dwells on the importance of continuing the operations; the recommendations of Captain Gib are backed by Lieutenant Scott, who advises that the Tolls collected at the channel should be expended in aid of the operations. In his second letter dated 21st September¶ 1857, Captain Gib in reply to enquiries from this Office states that the amount sanctioned on the 21st April 1854, Rupees (30,250) thirty thousand two hundred and fifty will not cover the cost of deepening the reef channel to 13 feet as proposed, and that the Steam Dredge is absolutely necessary for that object which would be attained by its use in 12 months.

‡ No. 245.

¶ No. 287.

12. The Sand bank channel is reported to have been untouched for ten years and to have become much filled up. Captain Gib has accordingly submitted an estimate of Rupees (22,300) twenty two thousand and three hundred for deepening it. I am of opinion that this should have been done when the estimate for deepening the reef channel was drawn up in 1854, but as the work is evidently essential to the final efficiency of the passage, I beg most strongly to recommend that the whole amount be entered in the Budget of 1858-59, and that renewed instruction be sent to the Marine Board for restoring the Paumben Steam Dredge to the scene of its greatest utility.

Letter from Lieutenant C. SCOTT, District Engineer of Madura; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp at Cottamputty, 20th May 1857, No. 312.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 247 of the 12th Instant, I have the honor to inform you that I have written to the Collector of Madura for the bill called for therein, which will be forwarded to you as soon as received, and your instructions regarding the debit of the amount duly carried out.

2 The sum of Rupees 20,287 alluded to in para. 2, of your letter under reply, as the total expenditure on the Paumben works up to the 30th November 1856, includes the Rupees 5,000 paid to the Collector of Rajahmundry particulars being as follows:—

Total expenditure at Paumben up to November 30th 1856.....	Rupees 15,287
Advanced to the Collector of Rajahmundry.....	„ 5,000
Total Rupees...	20,287

3. In accordance with the instructions contained in your third para. I herewith forward an abstract compiled from the statements of expenditure on the Paumben channel received from Captain Gib and now among the Records of my office showing the aggregate expenditure from the 1st November 1854 to the 30th April 1857, these sums together with the Rupees 5,000 paid to the Collector of Rajahmundry amount to Rupees 24,434 leaving a balance from the grant of April 1854, amounting to Rupees 5,816. I have not the aggregates of monthly expenditure previous to May 1856, but will forward them as soon as received from Captain Gib.

4. I take this opportunity of forwarding the following documents received from Captain Gib (viz).

Abstract of work executed on the Paumben reef channel from May 1st 1856, to April 30th 1857, marked.....A.
Abstract of powder expended..... do. .....B.
General statement of receipts and disbursements do....C.
Abstract of Tonnage.....do.....D.

Statement of collections made at the Sea Customs House at Paumben during the past official year on account of hire of warps and pilotage.

Dated 1st May 1857, No. 142.
Do. 12th do. Nos. 156 and 157.
2 Plans of the Soundings are sent seperately.

5. Together with the above named papers I forward 3 letters in original (as per margin) from Captain Gib, reporting upon the past year's operations, replying to my question if it would be possible to carry on the current year's operations at a less cost than he had estimated, and remarking upon the state of the Sand bank channel at Paumben.

6. From the abovementioned letters it appears that the result of the past years operations is in every way satisfactory, for although all active measures were necessarily confined, by the absence of the Steam Dredge, to blasting and weighing, the amount of rock removed during 7 months of 1856-57, exceeds that removed in 1855, by 18991 cubic feet.

The tonnage passing through the channel is also on the increase, that of 1856-57 exceeding that of the previous year by no less than 5874 tons.

The work may fairly be considered a highly remunerative one as the collections of pilotage and warp hire, made during the past year exceed the expenditure of the year by Rupees 3,600 after making all deductions or in other words yield a dividend of 50 per cent after paying all expences.

7. In order however that full advantage may be taken of the presence of the Steam Dredge, during the current year, Captain Gib expresses his firm conviction, that the expenditure stated in his estimate herewith forwarded viz. Rupees 18,114 will be necessary. As before stated there now remain but Rupees 5,816 of the grant of April 1854, including the cash balance in Captain Gib's hands on the 30th Ultimo, a further grant of Rupees 12,298 will therefore be required in order to meet the year's expenditure, and this amount will have to be raised to Rupees 12,898 on account of the sum of Rupees 5,000 paid in Rajamundry for boats having been exceeded by Rupees 600 as mentioned in your letter under reply, Captain Gib expresses his hope that this grant will be sanctioned before the whole remaining balance has been exhausted, or before the commencement of the N. E. Monsoon and states that if the year's expenditure is confined to the balance of Rupees 5,816. It will be barely possible to keep the Steam Dredge working until the Monsoon, having dispensed with all the Donies and rafts, much to the detriment of the progress of the work, I request therefore that you will be good enough to represent to Government the advisability of speedy sanction for the additional grant of Rupees 12,898 for the current year's expenditure.

8. In his letter No. 157 of the 12th Instant, Captain Gib represents the state of Sand bank channel and recommends an outlay of Rupees 15,000 upon it; as he has not yet however sent a detailed report and estimate, I abstain from further remark on the matter until these are received.

9. In conclusion I request the favour of information as to what should be done with regard to the Rupees 2,500 belonging to the Paumben channel, now in the hands of the Collector of Rajahmundry.

Letter from Captain COLIN GIB, Superintending Operations; to Lieutenant C. SCOTT, District Engineer, Madura, dated Paumben, 1st May 1857, No. 142.

SIR,

The official year having closed and in obedience to the orders previously issued I have the honor to forward statements shewing the quantity of work which has been executed in the main channel through the Reefs from 1st May 1856 to 30th April 1857, amount of disbursements made in the prosecution of the same, quantity of powder expended and the total amount of tonnage which has passed the channel during the twelve months.

The operations in the channel have differed in no respect from those of the preceding season having been limited to blasting and this too from the same cause, the absence of the Steam Dredge, it will be noticed however that the quantity of Rock raised by the Weighing Dhonies this season during seven months exceeds by 18,991 cubic feet that raised by the Weighing Dhonies during the year 1855 in eight the quantity raised in 1856 and 57 being 72,807 cubic feet whereas in 1855 there was only 53,815 cubic feet raised.

The weather has been very favourable for channel work since the breaking up of the North East monsoon and every advantage was been taken of it, and had the dredge been at work during even the last 3 months I could not only have shewn a greater amount of work done but I am certain that it would have been very apparent in the depth of water in channel as shewn by the soundings taken in September last.

The Steam Dredge will however I trust be at Paumben again soon and if she is and can be got ready by the 1st of June we shall have five months work out of her before the North East monsoon sets in.

I beg also to point out that the tonnage is still on the increase that for 1855 and 56 being 1,71,922 tons while for the past official year it amounts to 1,77,769 the difference in favor of 56 and 57 being 5847 tons.

The facts above described I trust will be considered very satisfactory, but there is another fact which I think ought not to be overlooked namely that the sums collected on account of Pilotage and for the hire of warps after paying the Pilots' share amounts to Rupees 10,486-15-9 whereas the disbursements made on account of the works for the same period amounts only to Rupees 7,239-2-7.

An estimate shewing the amount that will probably be required during 1857 and 58 is also forwarded but as the balance (of the grant sanctioned by the Supreme Government on the 21st April 1854) remaining in hand on the 30th April 1857 is only 5,816-4-5 it will be at once seen that this sum is insufficient for prosecuting the works for the current year I therefore request you will be good enough to favor me with instructions on this point.

Letter from Captain COLIN GIB, Superintending Operations; to Lieutenant C. SCOTT, District Engineer Madura, dated Paumben, 12th May 1857, No. 156.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 268, of the 5th Instant I have the honor to inform you that no funds have been drawn upon for the prosecution of the Paumben works other than from the sum sanctioned by the Supreme Government on the 21st April 1854.

The Rupees 5000 paid into the hands of the Collector of Rajahmundry I should fancy are not recoverable as that money was required for the construction of boats for the use of the works and which are I believe now ready.

As the Steam Dredge will be in all probability at work in the channel next July and as moreover the labour of prisoners is now to be paid for, I am perfectly convinced that no reduction whatever in the expenditure could be effected if the work is to be prosecuted with vigour, satisfaction and success.

The balance of the grant of April 1854, at the credit of the works was on the 30th April last Rupees 5,816-4-5, and although I was perfectly aware that this sum would not be sufficient to carry as on through the year 1857-58, yet I thought it advisable to shew what the probable amount of expenditure would be, provided the works were carried on in order that the sanction of Government might be obtained for a further grant before the old one had been completely exhausted.

There is much loose matter laying in the channel which must be and can only be removed by means of the dredge, the money still left will be sufficient to keep the Steam Dredge fully employed until the setting in of the north east monsoon and will enable us to remove a considerable quantity of this, but it will not be sufficient to sweep the channel thoroughly from end to end and to work the Dredge even during the 4 months prior to the setting in of the monsoon, both rafts and weighing Dhonies must be discharged.

The detailed statement is in course of preparation and will be forwarded as soon as possible, the documents forwarded with your letter under reply are herewith returned.

In conclusion I think I may safely assert that the Paumben works are remunerative when as it will be seen on referring to the statement of collections made from the shipping on account of pilotage and hire of warps for the past official year that it amounts to Rupees 10,838-15-9, while the sum expended on the works out of the sanctioned grant was only Rupees 7,239-2-7, this has not only been the case for one year only but for the last five or six years past.

Letter from Captain COLIN GIB, Superintending Operations; to Lieutenant C. SCOTT, District Engineer Madura, dated Paumben, 12th May 1857, No. 157.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of the 1st Instant, reporting the progress which had been made during the season in the Paumben Reef channel, it appears to me to be also very advisable to say something regarding that of the Sand bank.

I have already informed you that I had forwarded a plan of the Sand bank channel shewing its present actual state, in that plan however the soundings are shewn to cover a breadth of 100 feet, I have the honor therefore to explain that they ought to represent a breadth of only 80 feet beyond this they rapidly decrease.

It is evident then I think that this channel should be both widened and deepened as soon as possible to prevent its becoming altogether unnavigable.

Vessels after passing through the main or reef channel without grounding or even touching frequently do both in the sand bank.

The shallowness in this channel has arisen from natural causes, the gradual accumulation of sand carried to it and there left by the currents, these currents do not set directly through the channel but obliquely across it depositing the sand at first for the most part at either entrance but which would if allowed to go on increasing eventually block it up and render the channel perfectly useless and impracticable for navigation, this would not be all it would also have the effect of destroying the utility of the main channel the one being as it were a continuation of the other both.must therefore be kept open in order to prevent the advantages which have already been obtained (and which are fully appreciated) by the deepening of them from becoming comparitively speaking useless and a dead letter.

I would suggest that this channel be made 140 feet wide, and that both ends of it should be opened out still more by rounding off the shoulders.

I am of opinion that 18 months would be ample but not more than sufficient time to effect this object with the Steam Dredge at work, and the cost of it would I think on a rough calculation come to about 15,000 Rupees, I should esteem it a favor therefore if you would obtain instructions for me regarding this channel with as little delay as possible.

Letter from Captain C. GIB, Superintending Operations; to Lieutenant C. SCOTT, District Engineer Madura, dated Paumben, 11th August 1857, No. 245.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 550 of the 3rd Instant together with enclosures and in reply to state that the operations at present are confined entirely to blasting rocks in the channel left exposed by the Steam Dredge these rocks are difficult to find in consequence of their want of breadth although extending in length sometimes to 50 feet and upwards, they are frequently discovered by Vessels grounding on them.

These must be removed as also must the rock blasted during the last 3 years, it is being done, but of necessity slowly, from want at present of adequate means, but still we are progressing, and when the Dredge arrives, which I expect she will in September, our progress will be much more satisfactory.

The Sand Bank channel also must be worked, as for the *cost* of the Paumben Works it is nominal, as the receipts are invariably greater than the disbursements and I shall feel obliged if you will point out this fact to Colonel Faber, the money laid out, or cost incurred in improving the channels at Paumben ought rather to be called an investment, for money spent on these works is very speedily returned and with interest.

I should esteem it, Sir, a personal favor if you would bring your influence not only as an Engineer Officer but as the Engineer of the Division to bear in favor of these works and the importance and necessity of their being kept up and steadily prosecuted.

I think I may without presumption solicit this from you as independant of the interest I must take in them from the long period I have been in charge, and desire to see them completed you also must feel favorably disposed towards a work which is in your District and one too shewing such satisfactory results.

Letter from Captain COLIN GIB, Superintending Operations; to Major MARSHALL, Madura, dated Paumben, 21st September 1857, No. 287.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 625 of the 29th Ultimo giving cover to copy of one from the Central office and with reference thereto to state that the required depth of water in the Reef channel viz., 13 feet at ordinary high water will not be obtained within the amount sanctioned by the Supreme Government on the 21st April 1854.

The Steam Dredge is the one thing needful and absolutely necessary for clearing out the channel to the depth required.

With the assistance of the Dredge for 12 months I am of opinion that the Reef channel would be deepened to 13 feet at ordinary high water and the operations in that channel brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

The probable amount required for carrying on operations during the current official year, including the cost of the Dredge I have already shewn in an estimate which accompanied my letter No. 142 of the 1st May last.

The sand Bank channel has never been worked since the year 1847-48 and then only for a period of six months and Colonel Lawe then Chief Engineer disapproved of my having employed the Steam Dredge then at all.

The depth and width of this channel however must be increased, it has filled in very considerably since it was last worked, and an estimate for this purpose was forwarded by me on the 30th of May last with letter No. 172, this estimate was framed upon the practical experience I had previously gained of the nature of the work required.

The largest vessels that have passed the Paumben channels were the Honorable Company Steamers Medusa, Nemeses, and Pluto, respectively of 500-600-500 tons each.

I beg to enclose copy of a letter forwarded by me lately to Lieutenant Scott, and to state here that the facts regarding the *cost* of *the works* cannot be denied, for I repeat that the amount collected monthly on vessels alone is considerably greater than the disbursements made on account of the works and I would request your influence in urging the necessity of steadily prosecuting them in order that they may be successfully concluded.

Copies of the estimates alluded to above are enclosed.

No. 20. ORDER THEREON, No. 2335; dated 17th December 1857.

In this letter, the Chief Engineer reports on the operations at the Paumben works for 1856-57, submitting the correspondence and statements received from the District Engineer of Madura.

2. The operations on the channel appear to have been impeded to some extent by the absence of the Steam Dredge. In their letter dated 21st April 1857, the Marine Board proposed that, on the return of the Coromandel to this Coast in June, after the first burst of the monsoon was over, she should proceed to Cocanada, and take the Dredge to Paumben; and these arrangements were approved of by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 24th April 1857, No. 156, in the Marine Department. The Marine Board will be requested to report whether the Dredge has accordingly reached Paumben, and if not, what measures have been adopted for her transport to that place. It is gratifying to learn that the usefulness of the Paumben pass is much appreciated, and that the tonnage which passed during 1856-57, amounted to 1,77,769, being 5,847 in excess of that of the previous year.

3. The expenditure on the channel during the year under review, is stated to have been Rupees 7,239-2-7, but what the cost of establishment was for the period, there is nothing to shew. The amount of Pilotage and warp hire is given as Rupees 10,486-15-9. Captain Gib and the District Engineer compare these collections with the expenditure without regard to the cost of establishment, and make it appear that the work has been remunerative. This is certainly wrong as observed by the Chief Engineer. It appears from the statements of establishment furnished by Captain Gib up to 30th April 1856, that only for 1855-56 it amounted to Rupees 20,013-12-9 which sum added to the expenditure in that year of Rupees 6,215-12-9, gives a total of Rupees 26,230-9-6; and assuming that the amount of collections for the same period was nearly the same, as that of 1856-57, the charge is more than double the amount of collections. It is true that the Statement of Establishment contains some items which should have no place in it, but even then the expenditure is large compared with the collections. The amount sanctioned for the Paumben channel by the Government of India on the 21st April 1854, was Rupees 30,250; and the expenditure from May 1854 up to 30th April 1857, amounted to Rupees 24,439, inclusive of 5,000 Rupees paid to the Collector of Rajahmundry on account of Boats. This appears to be exclusive of Establishment, and taking the cost of this item up to 30th April 1856, viz. Rupees 30,024, as given by Captain Gib, the aggregate expenditure on the channel would be Rupees 54,684. To this the cost of Establishment during 1856-57 is still to be added, when the expenditure will appear much larger. The amount of collections on account of Pilotage for previous years is not given, and no comparison can therefore be made with this expenditure.

4. The information as now furnished by the Superintendent is very imperfect, and it is very desirable that complete Statements should be obtained closed to 30th April 1857, in the manner pointed out by the Chief Engineer in para. 9 of his letter above recorded. It should, at the same time, be ascertained and reported, by whom, and under what principle or system, the Pilotage and warp hire are collected, what share is allowed to the Pilots, by what rules the collections and grant of shares are governed, to whom the amount of collections is remitted, and in what accounts it is credited.

5. The Statement of establishment furnished by Captain Gib contains items which do not properly belong to it. Of the six items included therein, the first two only viz., pay of the Superintendent, and that of the two Overseers, are properly debitable to the head of establishment. The Military pay should be disbursed by the Paymaster and the Staff pay by the Collector, both on the Audit of the Military Auditor General and Civil Auditor; and both to be borne as a Public Work charge. As regards the third item, "pay &c., for a detachment of Sappers and Miners" it is altogether wrong to include it in the establishment. The Military pay ought to be disbursed by the Paymaster, and ought to be charged to the Military Department, and the working money should alone be charged to the estimate of the Paumben channel. The fourth item, "the pay of the Artificers" is also properly chargeable to the estimate, as a fixed number of them cannot be permanently required for the work. The fifth and sixth items, "subsistence to convicts, and pay for Jail establishments" do not belong to the Public Works Department, and

are properly chargeable to the Judicial Department. The value of the convicts labor, according to the rates fixed by the Government of India in their Circular dated 14th August 1857, should be charged to the estimate of the work, and a Memo should be furnished to the Collector, through the Session Judge, for the necessary adjustment in his accounts. The Superintendent will be directed to revise his Statement accordingly, and submit it with the other accounts called for. It should contain only the pay and Regimental allowances of the Superintendent and two Overseers; and the rates of pay should be specified. The pay of the Artificers, the working money paid to the Sappers and Miners, and the value of the Convicts labor should be included in the Statement of expenditure which is incurred upon the work out of the sanctioned estimate.

Communicated to the Chief Engineer with Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 29th September 1857, No. 1848.

6. The Civil Auditor will be called upon to state whether bills for the establishment for the Paumben channel have been submitted to him for audit, and by whom these bills are discharged. The Accountant General will be good enough to explain what establishment is charged in the accounts of the Collector of Madura on account of the channel, and to what head, and how the subsistence to Convicts and pay for Jail establishment came to be debited to the Public Works Department instead of to the Judicial Department. He will also adopt measures to have the several items debited to the proper heads, as pointed out in the previous para. The Chief Engineer will instruct the District Engineer of Madura to exercise a proper control over the expenditure on the Paumben channel, and to obtain from the Superintendent monthly Accounts Current of the expenditure as he does from other Executive Officers; so that the expenditure may be included in his General Account Current.

7. In para. 6 of his letter, the Chief Engineer solicits the sanction of Government to the expenditure on the channel during 1855-56, viz. Rupees 6,216-12-9. This does not appear necessary to enable the Accountant General to debit the amount in his Books against the work, as all the advances made by the Collector must have been already so debited in his accounts. As the expenditure was incurred out of a sanctioned estimate, the Chief Engineer can pass it after proper Audit.

8. The Chief Engineer submits an estimate amounting to Rupees 22,300 for deepening the sand bank channel, which is stated to have been untouched for the last two years, and recommends that the same may be sanctioned for entry in the Budget. This estimate appears to be intended for the operations of 18 months, and it is not clear whether it provides only for the improvement abovementioned, or whether any allowance for the maintenance of the channel is included in it. Hitherto the charges for the improvement and maintenance of the channel appear to have been mixed up together; and on a reference to some of the monthly Accounts Current submitted, it appears that the pay of a Writer, Lascars and other servants is included in the expenditure on the channel, and it is not apparent why such charges cannot be brought under the head of establishment to which they properly belong. The estimate now submitted contains also three items, one for Convict labor the amount of Rupees 2,636, one for Engineer's Pay to the amount of Rupees 4,050, and one for contingent charges to the extent of Rupees 900. The Government cannot understand whether the Convict labor is charged according to the proper rates, or whether the whole subsistence allowances and Jail establishment are included as was formerly the case; nor is it clear why 900 Rupees are required for contingent charges. Besides, the estimate does not shew, as it ought to do, the particulars of work to be performed to the sand bank channel, with the usual measurements, nor is it certain that it provides only for the improvement of the channel by deepening it, and not for repairs also. The channel does not appear to have been provided with any maintenance allowance, which is absolutely necessary to keep it in good order.

9. Under these circumstances, the Government are not prepared to sanction for the Budget the Estimate now submitted, which provides for operations during 18 months, and not for a specific work, the Budget can contain entries of such sums only as are entered for the expenditure within the year it refers to, and not such as extend to a period of six months beyond it, but as it is essential that the channel should have a provision for its maintenance, the Government sanction, for the present, pending further information, an annual grant of Rupees (10,000)

ten thousand for that purpose, which will be entered in the Government Office in the Statement No. 3 of the Budget of 1858-59. The estimate now received will be returned to Colonel Faber; and he will be good enough to submit a revised one in proper form, providing only for the improvement required in the channel. He will also ascertain and report what annual maintenance allowance is required to keep the channel in an efficient state. He will likewise, in communication with the District Engineer, determine what permanent establishment is necessary for superintending the operations of the channel, and for the collection of Tolls, and submit a statement for the consideration of Government. If writers and Lascars are required for the Superintendent and Overseers, they should be included in the Statement, the necessity for their employment being shewn, so that the pay of such permanent servants may not be included, as at present, in the amount of expenditure, incurred out of a sanctioned estimate.

10. In the Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 24th April 1856, No. 557, the Government directed that a separate annual report on the Paumben channel need not be submitted, but that it should be included in the Chief Engineer's general annual report. This course should be followed for the future, but the various Statements and information called for in this order, should be submitted to Government as soon as possible, in a separate communication.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

B

Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George
6th October 1857.

No. 4257.

From
The Chief Engineer

To,
The Secretary
to Government D.P.W.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for the
information of Government the accompanying
Encl. 2. letter from the District Engineer Madura, dated
20th May 1857, No. 312, together with its enclosures,
Viz. three letters to his address from Captain Gib on
the operations of the Paumben works, an Abstract
Statement A shewing the work executed, another D
of the Tonnage which passed through the Channel B,
a Statement shewing the quantity of powder
expended, and C the Receipts and Disbursements,
all having reference to the past Official Year 1856/57.
marked E The District Engineer has also forwarded a Statement
shewing the collections made during the above period, on
account of Pilotage, and Warp hire, as well as an
marked F Abstract Statement of the expenditure on the Paumben
Channel, up to the 30th April last, out of the sanction

f

of Rupees /30,250/ thirty thousand two hundred and fifty accorded by the Government of India, on the 21st April 1854, and communicated in Extract Minutes of Consultation dated the 9th May 1854 № 5, both of which Statements I beg also herewith to submit. —

2. Captain Gibb's report on the result of the operations of the past year appears to be highly satisfactory, and is fully acquiesced in by the District Engineer. The operations have in no way differed from those of the preceding year, having been limited to blasting in consequence of the continued absence from Paumben of the Steam Dredge. Captain Gib remarks that the weather after the breaking up of the North East Monsoon was very favorable for channel work and in very advantage had been taken of it and that if he had had the use of the dredge during even the last three months of the year, he would not only have shewn a greater amount of work done, but the depth of the water in the Channel would have been more apparent. — Vide Letter № 1162

3. Notwithstanding this drawback the quantity of work which has been excavated in the main channel through the Reefs is very creditable to the

Exertions

exertions of Captain Gib. The Rock raised by the weighing Dhonies during seven months of the past Official Year, being in excess of that for eight months of the preceding year 1855, by 18991 Cubic feet. The total quantity raised in 1856/57 being 72,807 Cubic feet, while the quantity in 1855 was only 53,816 Cubic feet

4. The Government will be glad to learn that as the usefulness of the Paumben Pass is becoming more developed by the operations carried on, it is being more and more appreciated and that commerce is extended through its means. Large as was the tonnage which passed through the Channel in 1855/56 viz: 171,922, it had been exceeded in 1856/57 by 5847, the tonnage in this Year having amounted to 177,769 being equal to more than 487 tons a day. —

5. Captain Gib has also submitted through the District Engineer an Abstract of the Expenditure during the Year under review. It has amounted to Rupees /1,239: 2: 7/ one thousand two hundred and thirty nine annas two and pice seven. The Statement E shews the amount collected on account of Pilotage and Wharf hire, which, after deducting the Pilots share, amounts to Rupees /10,886: 15: 9/ ten thousand four hundred and eighty six annas fifteen and pice

Statement C

piece nine. Captain Gib, as well as the District Engineer in alluding to this Statement, would appear to draw the conclusion that the collections exceed the expenditure, but this is entirely erroneous, they seem to have overlooked the fact that the Statement of Expenditure does not include the cost of the Paumben Works Establishment, Convicts labor &c. which if included, I have no doubt would still exceed the collections to a considerable extent. It must be owned however that a very large return on the expenditure on these works is being derived, and which it is hoped will in a few years more than cover all the future expenses of the operations.

6 The Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation dated the 24th April 1856, called for a Statement shewing the cost of the Paumben Works Establishment. Captain Gib has furnished this Statement for the second half of the year 1854/55, and for the whole of 1855/56, which in the aggregate amounts to Rupees /30,024:13:8/ thirty thousand and twenty four annas thirteen and pice eight being an average of nearly /1,670/ one thousand six hundred and seventy Rupees a month. For 1855/56 alone, it amounts to Rupees /20,013:12:9/ twenty thousand and thirteen annas twelve and pice nine, which makes about the same average per month of that year. I beg to submit this Statement as well as an Annual Abstract Account Current for 1855/56, and twelve monthly detailed Accounts

No. 554

Accounts for each month of that year, shewing the expenditure on these works, which according to these Accounts, amounts to Rupees /6,216:12:9/ six thousand two hundred and sixteen annas twelve and pice nine this amount, with the cost of the Establishment alluded to above, during this period, makes an aggregate of Rupees /26,230:9:6/ twenty six thousand two hundred and thirty annas nine and pice six, Comparing this aggregate with the net collections alluded to in the previous para Viz. Rupees /10,846:15:9/ ten thousand eight hundred and forty six annas fifteen and pice nine, it will be seen how far the expenditure exceed the collections. It is not just I know to compare the collections of one year with the expenditure of another, but it is enough to shew that Captain Gib is mistaken in supposing that the collections more than meet the expenditure. I have other objections to making a comparison for any useful purpose with such a Statement as that furnished by Captain Gib of the cost of the Establishment, which I shall presently advert to, in the mean time I beg to solicit the sanction of Government for the expenditure during 1855/56 Viz. Rupees 6,216:12:9, as has been usual hitherto, to enable the Accountant General to debit the amount in his Books against the work. Under the present system no similar sanction appears necessary for the expenditure in 1856/57,

20013:12:9
6216:12:9
26230:9:6

which

which will be adjusted by Bills in the usual manner and brought on the Books of the Central Office. —

The objections to the Statement exhibiting the cost of the Paumben works Establishment are that it includes several items which should not appear in it. For facility of reference the whole of the several heads under which the expenditure is exhibited in the Statement are given in the margin. The three first items are I think properly entered in it, but not so as regards the three last. The pay of the detachment of Sappers which amounts to nearly ₹300/ three hundred Rupees a month, should not have been included by Captain Gib, the work's money paid to these men should only be charged against the Public Works Department as is the case in other Departments when assisted in any work by details from Corps, but their pay is purely Military charge. Again the full amount paid on account of the subsistence of the Convicts employed on the works and the Jail Establishment appear to be entered in this Statement. I do not think this correct, it is for the Government to determine what portion of these charges should form a debit against the Paumben Works as they doubtless should bear a proportionate share of the charges although

Military and Civil salaries of Captain Gib
Salaries of two Assistant Overseers.
Pay of Artificers
Pay of a detachment of Sappers
Subsistence of Convicts
Pay of the Jail Establishment

although not of all. These Extra or overcharges have tended greatly to swell the amount of the cost of the Establishment as exhibited in this Statement. —

8. I beg here to inform the Government that on a reference being made to the Journals of the Collector of Madura (obtained for the purpose from the Accountant General) to see how these charges have been adjusted in his Accounts, it does not appear that the Military allowances of Captain Gib have been debited to the Department. The Civil Salary is only shewn charged to the head "Salaries Establishments and Contingencies of the Public Works Department." Neither is it clear whether the Salaries of the two Overseers attached to the Paumben Works have been charged against the same, no particulars being given in the Collector's Journal of the pay of the Establishments, and the pay of the Artificers is not exhibited in the Journal alluded to above. It would appear to have been disbursed from the Treasury of the Paymaster Southern Division, but under what head exhibited in his Books I am unable to state. I merely mention these facts in order that should the Government think proper the necessary instructions may be issued for the proper exhibition in the Public Books of all charges of the P. W. D. —

I

9 I would beg further to suggest for the consideration of Government that as the defects pointed out in Captain Gibs Statement alluded to in the 8th para of his letter render it valueless as a document affording the information required of it, that he be directed to furnish one complete Abstract Statement shewing on one side all the sums which have been from time to time sanctioned by the Government and received on account of the Paumben Works, from their commencement, and on the other side the sums expended therefrom. Another Statement shewing the cost of the Establishment similar to the one alluded to in the preceding para, prepared in accordance with such instructions as the Government may be pleased to issue with reference to my observation on the Statement alluded to above, and a third Statement shewing the collections on account of Pilotage and Warp hire and any other species of collections made from the Paumben channel, Such Statements before the Government and this Office will answer many useful purposes. I do not anticipate that the preparation will take up much time, or be the work of much labour, as they need not exhibit any particulars beyond giving in one line the amount of receipts and expenditure during each Official year

up

up to the 30th April 1857. — 7

10 The Government will see by the Statement furnished by the District Engineer of Madura that the expenditure on the Paumben Works out of the sanctioned sum of Rupees /30,250/ thirty thousand two hundred and fifty amounts up to the 30th April last, to Rupees /19,433: 11: 7/ nineteen thousand four hundred and thirty three annas eleven and pice seven and if to this be added the sum of Rupees /5,600/ five thousand and six hundred paid to Mr Faulkner at Rajahmundry for building three timber or spoil boats for the Dredge, the aggregate expenditure will be Rupees /25,033: 11: 7/ twenty five thousand and thirty three annas eleven and pice seven leaving a balance at the end of the past Official Year of Rupees /5,216: 4: 5/ five thousand two hundred and sixteen annas four and pice five Captain Gib in his letter No. 142 represents, in expectation however that the Steam Dredge would again soon be at Paumben, that the aforesaid balance is insufficient for prosecuting the works during the Current Year, and he accordingly has forwarded an Estimate amounting to Rupees /12,898/ twelve thousand eight hundred and ninety eight. In a subsequent letter the District Engineer of Madura has forwarded another Estimate for 18 Months operations from Captain Gib amounting

to

* marked G.

dated 20 June 1857 No. 427

to Rupees/22,300/ twenty two thousand and three hundred for deepening and widening the Sand Bank Channel to a depth of 13 feet at ordinary tides, the excess of this latter Estimate over the one first received is in some measure owing to the item of the pay of the Engineer of the Dredge having been entered therein which the former one did not provide for. —

11 Since the foregoing remarks were written two letters from Captain Gib have been received of which copies are now submitted. In the first dated 11th August 1854 the Superintendent states the necessity of employing the Steam Dredge to remove the rocks in the reef channel and of deepening the sand bank Channel, and dwells on the importance of continuing the operations; the recommendations of Captain Gib are backed by Lieutenant Scott, who advises that the tolls collected at the Channel should be expended in aid of the operations. In his second letter dated 21st September 1854 Captain Gib in reply to enquiries from this Office states that the amount sanctioned on the 21st April 1854 Rupees 30,250/ thirty thousand two hundred and fifty will not cover the cost of deepening the reef channel to 13 feet as proposed, and that the Steam Dredge is absolutely necessary for that object which would be attained by its use in 12 Months. —

No 245

No 287

The

12 The Sand bank Channel is reported to have been untouched for ten years and to have become much filled up. Captain Gib has accordingly submitted an Estimate of Rupees/22,300/ twenty two thousand and three hundred for deepening it. I am of opinion that this should have been done when the Estimate for deepening the Reef Channel was drawn up in 1854, but as the work is evidently essential to the final efficiency of the passage, I beg most strongly to recommend that the whole amount be entered in the Budget of 1855/56, and that renewed instructions be sent to the Marine Board for restoring the Steam Dredge to the scene of its greatest utility. —

Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George
6th October 1854.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

A.W. Taylor Colonel
Chief Engineer

Papers accompanying

1 Letter from the District Engineer of Madura dated 20th May 1854 No 312 with 10 Enclosures
1 Statement shewing the cost of the Coimbatore Channel Establishment from 1st Nov. 1852 to 30th April 1853
1 Annual Abstract Account Current for 1853/54 with 12 monthly detailed Accounts
1 Copy of Captain Gibb's letter dated 11th August 1854 No 245
1 Copy do dated 21st Septr 1854 No 287
1 Abstract Estimate for Rupees 22,300.

Cl. 1st Dec.

PWD

No 2335.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 16th Dec. 1857

Read the following letter
from the Chief Engineer-

Ygene 6 October 1857
No 2257

In this letter the
Chief Engineer reports on
the operations at the Pamm
= ben Works for 1856/57
submitting the correspond=
-ence and Statements re=
-ceived from the District
Engineer of Madura-

2 The operations on
the Channel appear to
have been impeded to
some extent by the absence

P

of the steam Dredge - In their letter dated 21st April 1857, the Marine Board proposed that, on the return of the Commandel to this Coast in June, after the first burst of the Monsoon was over, she should proceed to Cocanada, and ~~then~~ take ~~on~~ the ~~steam~~ dredge to Pamben, and these arrangements were approved of by Government in Ex. Marine Cons. of 24 April 1857 No. 156, in the Marine Department. The Marine Board will be requested to report whether the Dredge has accordingly reached Pamben, and, if not, what measures have

have been adopted for her transport to that place. It is gratifying to learn that the inefficiency of the Pamben Pass is visibly diminished, and that the tonnage which passed during 1856/57 amounted to 177769, ~~tons~~ being 5847 in excess of that of the previous year.

3. The expenditure on the Channel during the year under review has been stated to have been Rs. 7239-2-7, but in that the cost of establishment was for the period there is nothing to show. The amount of Pilotage and Light dues is given as Rupees 19486-15-7. Captain

but

and the District Engineer compare these Collections with the expenditure without regard to the cost of establishment, and would it appear that the amount has been remunerative. This is certainly wrong, and observed by the latest Payments. It appears from the statements of Establishment, year end by Captain Gib up to 30 April 1856 that only for 1855/56 it amounted to Rs 29,01 2-12-9 which sum, added to the expenditure in that year of Rs 216-12-9, that year gives a total of Rs 29,230-9-6 proving that the amount of Collections for the same period was nearly the same as that of 1855/57. The charge is more than double the amount of Collections. It is true that the Establishment of Establishments contains some items which should have no place in it, but even then the charge is large compared with the Collections. The amount sanctioned for the Pamphlen Channel by the Govt of India on the 21st April 1855 was Rupees 30,258; and the expenditure from May 1854 up to 30 April 1857 amounted to Rupees 26,163, exclusive of 5000 Rs paid to the Collector for Pajahmunry on account of Boats. This appears to be a branch of Establishment, and taking the sum of this item up to 30 April 1856, viz Rupees 3,02 2-6, and given by Captain Gib, the aggregate expenditure on the Channel would

...ewards, the Superior Sts 684.

To this there will be establishment during 1856 of private to be added when the expenditure will appear increased to larger sum. The amount of Collections on account of Pilotage for previous years is not given, and no comparison can therefore be made with this expenditure.

The information now furnished by the Superintendent is very imperfect, it is very desirable that complete Statements should be obtained from the Inspectors closed to 30th April 1857, in the manner pointed out by the Chief Engineer in Para 9 of his letter above

Recorded

recorded: It should, at the same time be ascertained and reported, by whom, and under what principle or system, the Pilotage and warfage are collected, what share is allowed to the Pilots, by what rules the Collections and grant of shares are governed, to whom the amount of Collections is remitted, and in what accounts it is credited.

5 The Statement of Establishment furnished by Captain Gill contains items which do not properly belong to it. Of the six items included therein, the first two only viz the Pay of the Superintendent, and that of the two Overseers, are properly debitable to the head of establishment. The Military Pay should be disbursed by the Paymasters and

and the Staff Pay by the Collector both on the Credit of the Military Auditor General and Civil Auditor, and both to be borne as a Public Work charge. As regards the third item "Pay &c for a detachment of Sappers and Miners" it is altogether wrong to include it in the establishment. The Military Pay ought to be disbursed by the Paymaster, and ought to be charged to the Military Department and the working money should alone be charged to the Estimate of the Peninsular Channel. The fourth item "the pay of the Artificers" is also properly chargeable to the Estimate, as a fixed number of them cannot be permanently required for the work. The fifth and Sixth items,

Communicated to the Chief Engr with Estimate Minutes of Cons. d/29th Sept. 1847 & 1848.

items, Subsistence to Convicts, and Pay for Jail Establishments do not belong to the Public Works Department, and are properly chargeable to the Judicial Department. The value of the convicts labor according to the rates fixed by the Government of India in their Circular dated 14th August 1837, should be charged to the estimate of the Work, and a statement should be furnished to the Collector through the Sessions Judge for the necessary adjustment in his accounts. The Superintendent will be directed to revise his statement accordingly, and submit it with the other accounts called for. It should contain only the Pay and Regimental allowances of the Superintendent and two Overseers, and the rates of

of Pay should be specified.
The Pay of the Artificers,
the working money paid to
the Sappers and Miners,
and the value of the
Convicts labor should be included
in the Statement of expenditure
which is incurred upon
the works out of the
sanctioned estimate.

6. The Civil Auditor
will be called upon
to state whether Bills
for the establishment for the
Pamamben Channel have
been submitted to him for
audit and by whom these
Bills are discharged.
The Accountant General
will be good enough
to explain what
establishment

establishment is charged
in the Accounts of the Collector of Madura in account of the Channel, and to what head, and how the subsistance to Convicts and Pay for Jail Establishment came to be debited to the Public Works Department instead of to the Judicial Department, ~~& interrupted to~~ ~~subsequently done~~. He will also adopt measures to have the several items debited to the proper heads, as provided for in the foregoing Para. The Chief Engineer will instruct the District Engineer of Madura to exercise proper control over the expenditure on the Pamamben Channel, and to obtain from the Superintendent monthly accounts Current of the Expenditure as he does from other Executive Officers, &c.

Head

that the expenditure may be included in his General Account Current.

7 In Para 6 of his letter the Chief Engineer solicits the sanction of Government to the expenditure in the Channel during 1855/56 viz Rupees 6316-12-9 ~~in the Channel~~ It does not appear necessary to enable the Accountant General to debit the amount in his Books against the works as all the advances made by the Collector must have been already so debited in his Accounts. As the expenditure was incurred out of a sanction of Government the Chief Engineer can prefer his claim in proper Audit.

The

8 The Chief Engineer submits an Estimate amounting to Rupees 22,316 for deepening the Sand bank Channel, which is declared to be rendered unnavigable for the last two years, and recommends that the same may be sanctioned previously in the Budget. ~~This estimate has been submitted by Captain Cit~~ It appears to be intended for the operations of 18 months and it is not clear whether it provides only for the improvement above mentioned, or whether any allowance for the maintenance of the Channel is included in it. Hitherto the charges for the

the improvement and maintenance of the Channel appear to have been mixed up together; and on a reference to some of the Monthly Accounts Current submitted, it appears that the Pay of Writers, Lascars, and other Servants is included in the expenditure on the Channel, and it is not apparent why such charges cannot be brought under the head of Establishment to which they properly belong. The estimate now submitted contains also three items, one for Convict Labor to the amount of

of Rupees 2,636, one for Engineers Pay to the amount of Rs. 4,050, and one for contingent charges to the extent of Rs. 900. The Govt cannot understand whether the convict labor is charged according to the proper rates, or whether the whole subsistence allowances and Jail Establishment are included as was formerly the case; nor is it clear why 900 Rs are required for contingent charges. Besides the Estimate does not shew, as it ought to do, the particulars of

work to be performed to the sand bank channel, with the usual measurements, nor is it certain that it provides only for the improvement of the channel by deepening it, and not for repairs also. The channel does not appear to have been provided with any maintenance allowance, which is absolutely necessary to keep it in good order.

9 Under these circumstances, the Govt are not prepared to sanction for the Budget the Estimate now submitted, which provides for operations during 18 months, and not for a specific work. The Budget can contain entries of such sums only as are entered for the expenditure within the year it refers to, and not such as extend to a period of six months beyond it, but as it is essential that the channel should have a provision for its maintenance, the Govt sanction, for the present, pending further information, an annual grant

4

of Rs. (10,000) ten thou-
=sand for that pur-
=pose, which will be
entered in the Govt.
office in the state-
=ment No. 3 of the Bud-
=get of 1858/59, ~~as that~~
~~in which a Engineer~~
~~officer will have~~
~~to be employed by the~~
~~Executive Engineer~~
~~for~~ sanctioned. The Estimate
now received will
be returned to Coll-
=ector; and he will
be good enough to
submit a revised one
in proper form, pro-
=viding only for the
improvement required
in the channel. &c

&c

&c will also ascer-
=tain and report what
annual maintenance
allowance is required
to keep the channel
in an efficient con-
=dition. &c will like-
=wise in communi-
=cation with the
District Engineer de-
=termine what pier-
=manent establish-
=ment is necessary for su-
=perintending the
operations of the
channel, and for
the collection of tolls
and submit a state-
=ment for the con-
=sideration of Govt.
of Writers and Lascars

are required for
the Superintendent
and overseers, they
should be included
in the Statement,
the necessity for re-
their employment
being shewn, so that
the pay of such Per-
=manent Servants
may not be inclu-
=ded, as at present,
in the amount of
expenditure, incur-
=red out of a Sanc-
=tioned Estimate.

10 In the Ex: in
Mins: of Cons: dated
24th April 1856 Art: 54,
the Govt: directed
that

that a separate
annual report on
the Pamben chan-
=nel need not be
submitted, but that
it should be inclu-
=ded in the chief
Engineers General
annual Report.
This course should
be followed for
the future, but the
various Statements
and information
called for in this
Order, ~~as published~~
~~for information, together~~
~~with such other~~
should be submit-
=ted to Govt: as soon
as possible, in a con-

Separate commu-

nication.

1 Chief Engineer
2 " Marine Board
1 " Asst. General
1 " Civil Auditor
1 " Pay. Asst. Gen.

Public Works 1857 Dept.
Dr. to Cons.: 23 December.

No. 2335.

Extract Mins of Cons.
of 17th December 1857.

From the Civil Auditor of 22d Dec. 57 No 2508
in Cons. 26 Jany/58.

From the Supt. Engineer & C. in charge
Central Office of P.W.D. in Cons:
22d April/58 No 904 in Cons:
31st May

From the Secy to the Madras Govt
of 8 Feby/58 No 283 in Cons
25th Feby/58

Sanctioning, pending further information, an annual grant of Rupees 10,000 as a provision for the maintenance of the Paumben Channel, and directing its entry in Statement No 3 of the Budget of 1858-59; also, returning the Estimate of Rupees 22360, for deepening and widening the sand Bank in the Channel and calling for a revised one providing only for the improvement required in the Channel.

No 19 & 20.

c5 Dec. 211