2. Date of repair. 15-937
3. Initials of Reference.

M.R.O. 1—82 409—31-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con 2312.5

G.O. No. 2347 Press Mis.

4142

Dated 18-12- 18 37.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 23rd December 1857.

No. 41. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 18th November 1857, No. 5291.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward for the consideration of Government, the accompanying letter from the District Engineer of the Godavery Division, and from ~~the~~ Mr. Covenanted Civil Engineer Moncrieff, regarding the construction of the Steam Dredges, that may be required for this country, in the workshop at Dowlaishwaram, instead of importing them from England.

2. Mr. Moncrieff having lately had the putting together of the dredge purchased by the Court of Directors from Messrs Forrester & Co. of Liverpool, and sent out for employment on the Godavery Canals, has had his attention attracted to the comparative cost of the Dredge, according to the invoice, as delivered at Cocanada from England, and that at which he believes he could turn out an equally good and efficient one from his workshop at Dowlaishwaram; and the conclusion he seems to have come to is, that, if the shop were provided with a few more machines, and tools, the number and character of which he explains, and estimates to cost £ 2,000, he would be in a position to guarantee to supply all the Steam Dredges that may be wanted at a cost, and in a manner, satisfactory alike to himself and to the Government.

3. Even with his present imperfect appliances he feels confident of being able to manufacture a Dredge, similar to the one received from Liverpool, for the same amount as it cost delivered at Cocanada, viz., £ 2,350, and should he be allowed to try, as he wishes, he anticipates making a saving, which he would devote to the purchase of machinary and tools.

4. Captain Rundall cordially endorses all Mr. Moncrieff has said, and clearly pointing out the advantages of encouraging the use, as well as the manufacture, in this country, of machinery of all kinds, and especially of Steam Dredges, shows how necessary it is that some work should be found for the Artificers who have been brought together in the Dowlaishwaram workshop, and taught with so much perseverance and success, instead of allowing them to disperse and emigrate, or to forget their training.

5. The Court of Directors have, in their despatch No. 14 of 1856, communicated with Minutes of Consultation of the 6th March 1857, No. 434, intimated their having ordered eleven of the fourteen dredges applied for by this Government, and these it may be presumed may ere long be expected in this country; but as they will form only an instalment of those that will be required, Mr. Moncrieff's proposition seems worthy of the best consideration, for if he can succeed in rendering this country independent of the English manufacture, he will render a most important service, and do much to meet the oft repeated wishes of the Court of Directors, that exertions should be made to enable this country to supply itself with all the machinery, tools, and other articles, which hitherto have been obtained at much cost and delay solely from England.

6. Many more dredges than those ordered will be everywhere required, and even at this moment the want of some of these machines is most seriously felt at the Kistnah, where, owing to the extraordinary quantity of alluvium brought down in suspension by the freshes, experience has proved the almost insurmountable difficulty of keeping the heads of the Canals open, and shews that the constant employment of numerous Steam Dredges will be the only possible, or practicable means of avoiding the injurious consequences of their closing up, or of their being emptied for the purpose of being cleared out by manual labor, which is dilatory process, where wet mud has to be handled, and causes infinite inconvenience to traffic, and loss of produce by preventing a thoroughly continuous supply of water being confidently reckoned on two Steam Dredges, besides those ordered from England, would be most usefully, and beneficially employed on the Kistnah Canals, and, under any other circumstances than those due to the present financial difficulties of the state, I should unhesitatingly recommend that Mr. Moncrieff be empowered to build them, at an estimated cost of Rupees 47,000 but as it is, I am constrained to hand up his proposition with only my best wishes for its most favorable consideration by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

Letter from Captain F. H. RUNDALL, District Engineer Godavery Division; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 16th October 1857, No. 624.

SIR,

I have been requested by Mr. Moncrieff Civil Engineer to forward the accompanying letter to you accompained by such remarks as I may think necessary.

2. I beg fully to endorse his proposal that at least some of the Dredges required for the country be executed at the Workshops, as I am sure with the requisite appliances the work could be turned out quite a good and at a more reasonable rate than that charged for the present machine, which in Mr. Moncrieff's valuation appear to be very high, and I feel sure saving effected in expense would go far to meet, if not to cover altogether, the cost of the machines required to render the Workshops adopted for the manufacture of any large steam machinery.

3. Mr. Moncrieff's practical knowledge has already been the means of training several very good workers in Iron and brass and the specimen of steam machinery lately made both for the Government and for private parties are to all intents and purposes as good as any from English makers.

4. Since the suspension of Public Works Mr. Moncrieff has succeeded in introducing the contract system into the Workshops which has greatly reduced the cost of all kinds of work, and he is sanguine now of being able to compete successfully with European manufactures. The great desideratum however is to render the country more independent of the English Market, by having the means at hand for construction and repair of machines, the difficulty of procuring which has hitherto prevented their more general adoption and no better method of securing this end could be adopted than by commencing with such machines as these Canal Dredges, in which the machinery is neither very complicated massive or expensive, a number of well trained Artificers would always thus be kept together and it seems a great pity that men once so trained should be allowed to disperse and so the trouble of instruction have to be encountered again. I would therefore beg strenuously to second Mr. Moncrieff's proposal.

Letter from F. L. MONCRIEFF, Esq., Civil Engineer 4th Class Executive Engineer Godavery Division; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp at Dowlaishwaram 15th October 1857, No. 224.

SIR,

I understand the Madras Government made an application for a number of Steam Dredges for the use of the Canals throughout this Presidency and that the Honorable Court of Directors in accordance with that request purchased a Steam Dredge in England from Messrs. Forrester and Co., Liverpool and forwarded it to this Division (the same I am now erecting in the Dowlaishwaram Workshop) stating that if it proved satisfactory in every respect and suitable for this Country a number more would be sent out from the same makers.

My object in addressing you on this subject is to be permitted to make up here any number more Steam Dredges which may be required so as to be independant of home machinery, and to encourage the Mechanical arts among the native community.

I think I can build a Dredge of the same description in the Dowlaishwarum Workshop, at the cost charged, delivered in Cocanada viz. £ 2,350, this I conceive allows a large profit to Messrs. Forrester and Co. which I presume I could save if constructed in India.

However it is quite presumption on my part to try and compete with English manufactures with the means at my disposal (the rude machinery now in the Workshop;) yet with the satisfactory results in constructing and repairing Machinery, Engines, boats &c., I think if a few more machines such as 2 Lathes, 2 Plaining machines, 2 Slotting machines, 1 Plate bending machine, and an assortment of minor Tools, were furnished which would not cost more th£ £ 2,000 I would then be in a position to carry out my wishes fully with satisfaction to Government and myself.

3V

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 23rd December 1857.

If this small supply of machinery cannot be granted I am quite willing to erect a Dredge of the same construction with any improvements we may see are required from time to time, for the amount above named in the Workshop as it now is; if the necessary plate and angle Iron are supplied from England or Calcutta which I am not able to buy in the markets here.

I understand in Calcutta at present Iron of all descriptions is very cheap, the small quantity required for one Dredge could easily be sent from Calcutta in this Monsoon by sailing ship to Cocanada.

I have the honor to request you may lay my proposition; not to send to England for more Dredges of this description, but to let them be supplied from these works, before Government, with your own hearty recommendation that it may be carried into effect, also that Iron boats be substituted for wooden to discharge the mud into, and that whatever sum I can save from the English price of the Dredge I may be allowed to spend by sending home direct for the necessary few machines.

No. 42. ORDER THEREON, No. 2347; dated 18th December 1857.

Ordered that the above letter and its enclosures be forwarded to the Honorable Court of Directors for their favorable consideration and orders.

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

Central Office of P.W.D.

No. 5291. Fort St. George 18th November 1857.

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government,

Public Department.

Godavery Division
Steam Dredges

Sir

I have the honor to forward for the consideration of Government, the accompanying letters from the Destrict Engineer of the Godavery Division, and from Mr. Cocrane Civil Engineer Moncrieff, regarding the construction of the Steam Dredges that may be required for this country, in the Workshops at Dowlaiswaram, instead of importing them from England.

2. Mr. Moncrieff having lately had the putting together of the Dredge purchased by the Court of Directors from Messrs Forrester & Co of Liverpool, and sent out for employment on the Godavery Canals, has had his attention attracted to the comparative cost of the Dredge, according to the Invoice, as delivered at Coconada from England, and that at which he believes he could turn out an equally good and efficient one from the Workshops at Dowlaiswaram; and the conclusion he seems to have come to is, that, if the Shops were provided with a few more Machines, and Tools, the number and Character of which he explains, and Estimates to cost £2000, he would be

Enclosures

1 Letter from the D.E. Gody Div. dd 16 Oct. 57 No. 624 with 1 Enclosure from Mr Brownrigg

in

in a position to guarantee to supply all the Steam Dredges that may be wanted at a cost, and in a manner, satisfactory alike to himself and to the Government.-

3.- Even with his present imperfect appliances he feels confident of being able to manufacture a Dredge, similar to the ones received from Liverpool, for the same amount as it cost delivered at Cocanada, viz.t £2,350---, and should he be allowed to try, as he wishes, he anticipates making a saving, which he would devote to the purchase of Machinery and Tools.-

4.- Captain Rundall cordially endorses all Mr Moncrieff has said, and clearly pointing out the advantages of encouraging the use, as well as the manufacture, in this country, of Machinery of all kinds, and especially of Steam Dredges, shows how necessary it is that some work should be found for the Artificers who have been brought together in the Dowlaishweram Workshop, and taught with so much perseverance and success, instead of allowing them to disperse and emigrate, or to forget their training.-

5.- The Court of Directors have, in their despatch № 14 of 1856, communicated with Minutes of Consultation of the 6th March 1857 № 434, intimated their having ordered Eleven of the Fourteen Dredges applied for by this Government, and these it may be presumed may ere long be expected in this Country, but as they will form only an instalment of those that will be required, Mr Moncrieff's proposition seems worthy of the best consideration, for if he can succeed in rendering this Country independent of the English Manufacture, he will render a most important service, and do much to meet the oft repeated wishes of the Court of Directors, that exertions should be made to enable this country to supply itself with all the Machinery, tools, and other Articles, which hitherto have been obtained at much cost and delay solely from England.-

6.- Many more dredges than those ordered will be every where required, and even at this moment the want of some of these Machines is most seriously felt at the Kistnah, where, owing to the extraordinary quantity of Alluvium brought down and suspension by the freshes, experience has proved the almost insurmountable difficulty of keeping the heads of the Canals open, and it is found that the constant employment of numerous steam dredges will be the only possible, or practicable means of avoiding the injurious consequences of their closing up, or of their being emptied for the purpose of being cleared out by manual labor, which is a dilatory process,

where wet mud has to be handled, and causes infinite inconvenience to traffic, and loss of produce by preventing a thoroughly continuous supply of water being confidently reckoned on— two Steam Dredges, besides those ordered from England, would be most usefully, and beneficially employed on the Kistna Canals, and, under any other circumstances than those, due to the present financial difficulties of the State, I should unhesitatingly recommend that Mr Moorie[illegible] be empowered to build them, at an Estimated cost of Rupees 170[illegible]- but as it is, I am constrained to hand up his proposition with only my best wishes for its most favorable consideration by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most Obed[t] Servant

Central Office Poona
18[th] November 1857.

H. E. Lake Colonel,
Chief Engineer

L.A.C.

Dr. Cons: 10 March 57 N:67.
" 30 January 65 - 102 / 828.

C. J. in - Letter L. E.
15th Sept. 1858. N:1

Public Works 1857 Letter 2
Pol. Cons 2nd December R
No. 2317.

From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secretary to Government
P.W. Department.

Dated 18th November 1857.
Read 18th "

Encls: 2 Returned
No. 2347 - 18th Dec. 57.

With an order
Forwards Letters from the Chief Engineer of the Godavery Division and Memorandum regarding the proposition of the Letter to construct the Bridges required for the country in the Dowlaiswaram Workshop instead of importing them from England. States that his Bridges in addition to those ordered from England are required at this moment at the Thatcha, and expresses best wishes for the most favorable consideration of the proposition.

No. 2347.

Ordered that the above letter and its enclosures be forwarded to the Honorable Court of Directors for their favorable consideration and orders.

Fort St. George
18th Dec. 1857

To Copies to the Chief Engr Disp. 19.
Returned with 2 Orig. Encs: 8-2-58.

No. 42.

Cg. Dec. 1214.